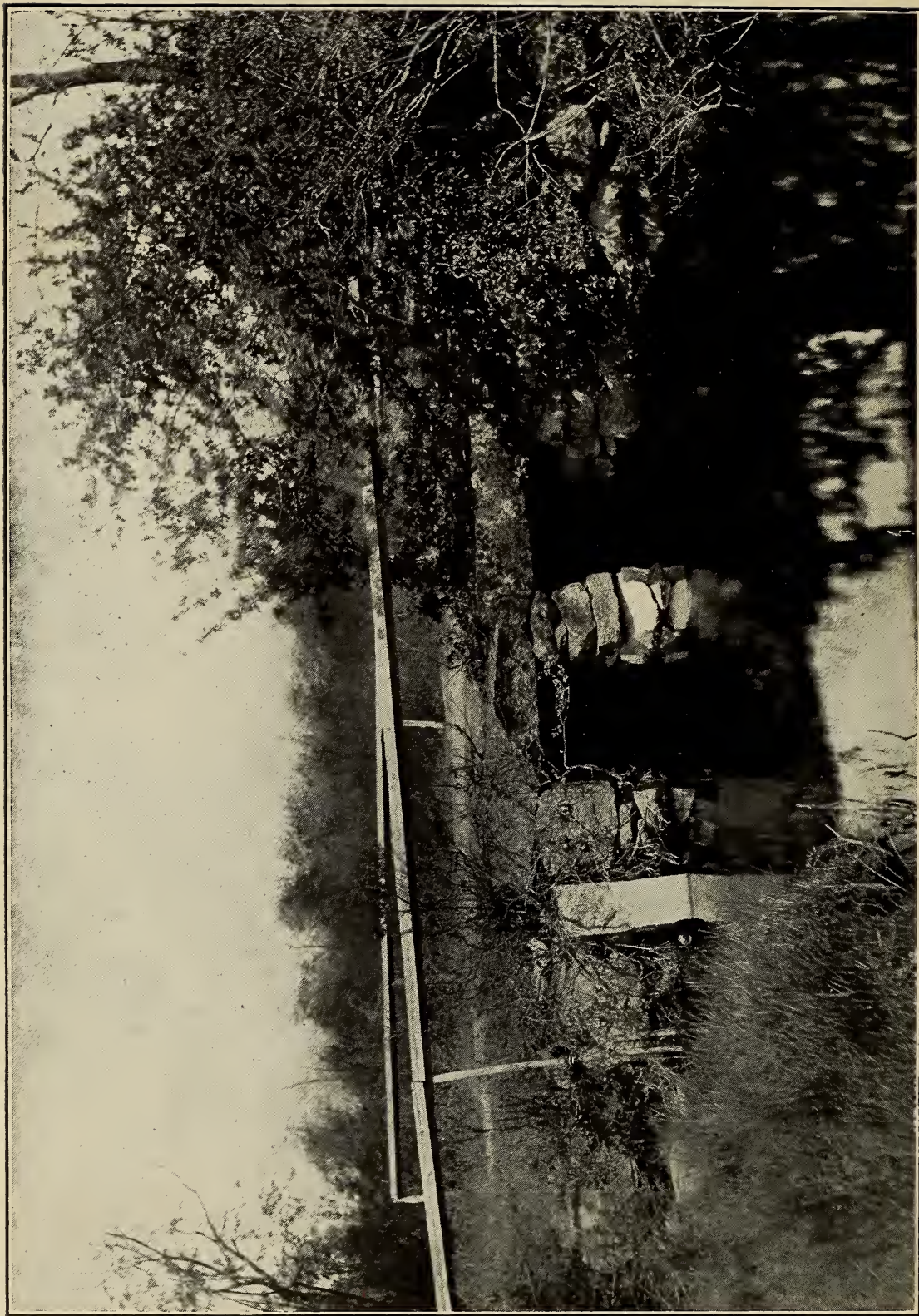




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"WILD CAT" BRIDGE

Over the 3d Herring Brook, Above "Cornet's Dam" at "Old Pond."

BOOK No. 6

The Stetson Kindred of America

Sketch of

CORNET ROBERT STETSON

The veteran Cornet of the Plymouth Colony Troopers, 1658

Other family sketches—Account of annual meetings

Genealogy—List of Members, &c.

Illustrated

Compiled by NELSON M. STETSON, Secretary

Campello, Massachusetts

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APOLOGY

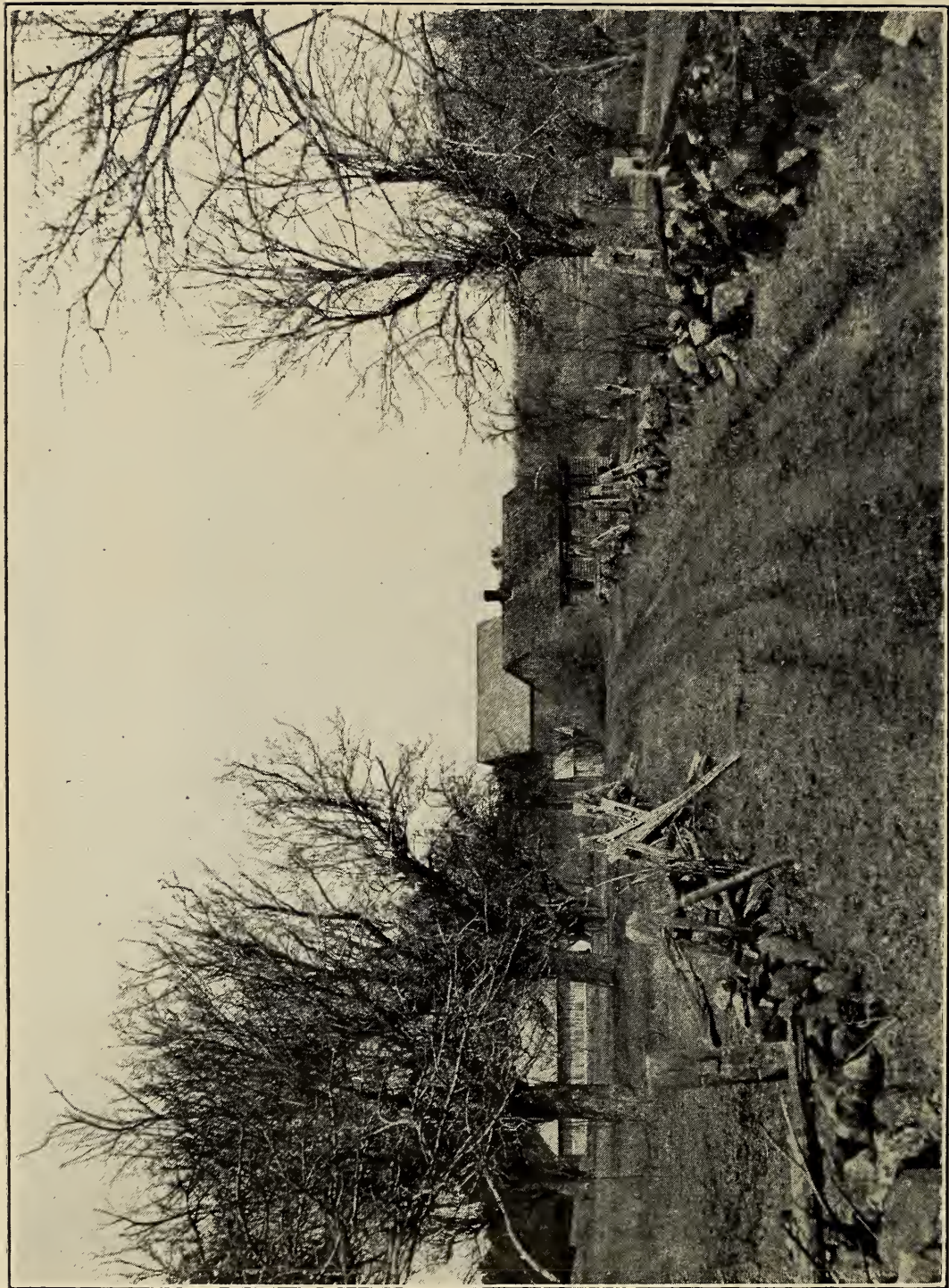
The following sketch of Cornet Stetson was prepared for publication in **Old Scituate**. Owing to limited space, only a few pages of our manuscript could be used. We publish it here in full, believing that the valuable information contained therein, will atone for the clumsy manner in which it is presented.

Of all the towns in the old Plymouth Colony that delight to honor the memory of their pioneers, none have more reason to be proud of their early heroes than Scituate; and among these heroes there is none more interesting or more worthy of their honor and admiration than the unique leader of the Scituate Troopers. Few have left a posterity so large or so thoroughly incorporated with the older families and the town's history; and although the name is practically extinct in Old Scituate, there are few descendants of the early families who can not trace at least one line of descent from the veteran "Cornet of the Troopers."

The record of Cornet Stetson is nothing less than an interesting chapter in the history of Scituate.

In the following pages we present a collection of unquestionable facts from impartial and reliable sources. We are, however, well aware that some clever "romancer" using this same material, could by amplification, elimination and free use of legend, tradition and imagination produce a far more interesting story which would eventually be accepted as authentic history.

N. M. S.



CORNET STETSON HOMESTEAD

The old house occupies the site of the Cornet's original home, which was demolished about 1769

—Photo by Thos. Drew

ROBERT STETSON, "CORNET OF THE TROOPERS"

By Nelson M. Stetson

The career of Cornet Robert Stetson of Scituate is unique in the annals of Plymouth Colony, and the element of romantic adventure, running through his whole life, appeals to everyone. In 1634 he made his appearance in Scituate and soon after was granted a large tract of land on the banks of North River where he built his rude home and reared his large family, but how and whence he came is still a mystery.

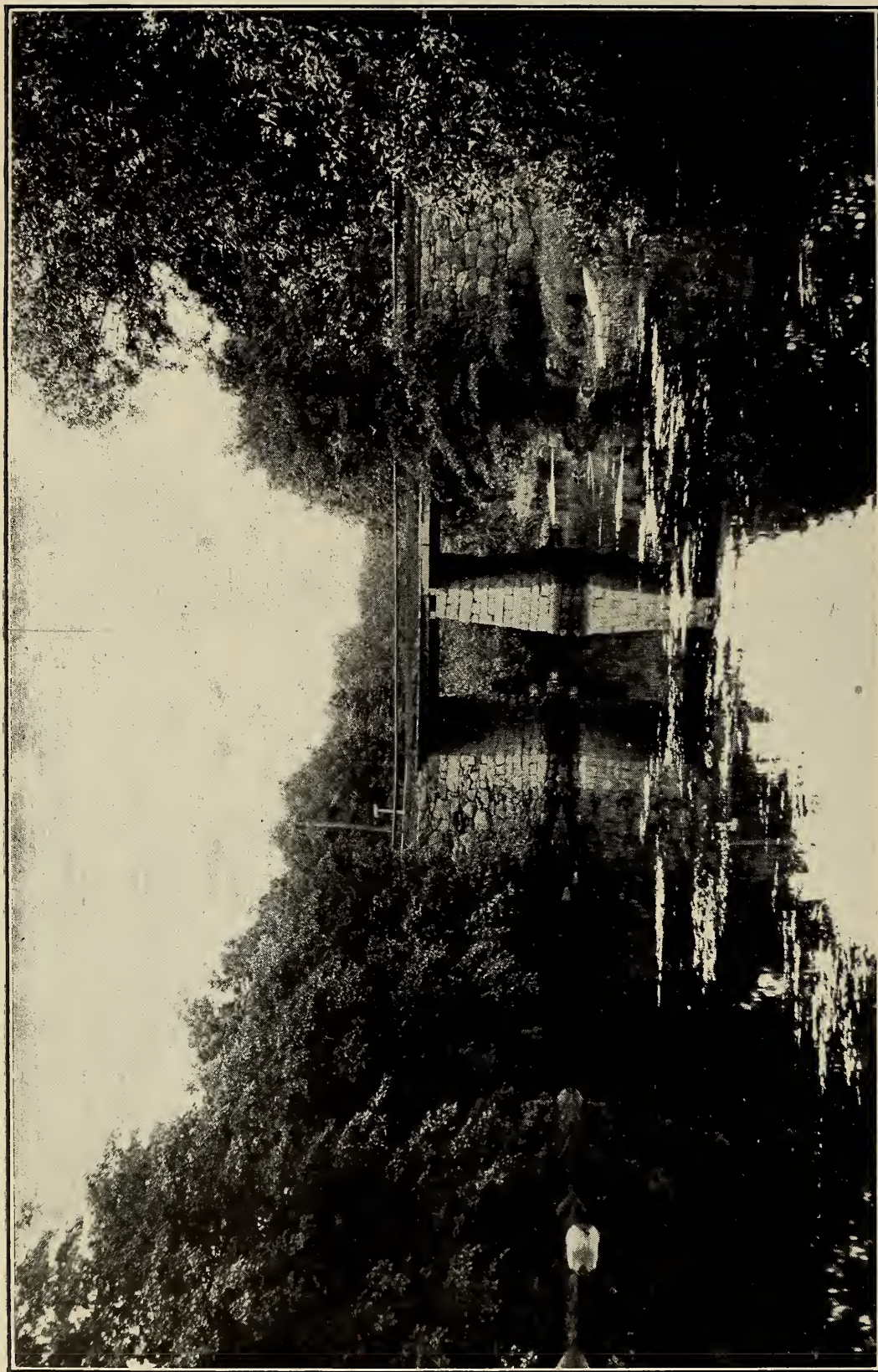
So far as can be discovered no other pioneer had established himself here at that early date, and it is believed that Robert Stetson was the first settler within the territory now known as Norwell.

That Robert Stetson was original and enterprising no one will dispute. These qualities which he displayed from the very first are conspicuous all through his long, busy life. While his contemporaries built their homes near the settlement, where they might enjoy the fellowship of their friends in comparative safety, he struck boldly out into the wilderness, and here by the river, near a boiling spring, on the edge of the meadows, many miles from the settlement, cleared the land for his farm, and built his home.

Only fourteen years before, the Pilgrims at Plymouth built their houses, we are told, of logs and covered them with "thatch." Could we have seen the house that Robert Stetson built, doubtless we would have seen a crude log hut, roofed with the long grasses from the meadows. Having chosen this isolated and romantic spot by the river for their home, here alone in the forest they dwelt, Robert and Honor.

We do not know that the Cornet was connected with any church previous to the establishment of the Second Church of Scituate (now the First Church of Norwell) but Rev. William Witherell, the first minister, having been ordained the previous month, baptised on October 6th, 1645, the Cornet's three oldest sons.

We wonder how Robert and Honor brought these children to baptism that October morning. Did they follow the bridle path down the river, a distance of four miles, on foot, with the little ones in their arms? Or did they make the journey on



—Photo by Herman Sturtevant

NORTH RIVER BRIDGE 1829-1904

Wm. Barstow's land on the right, "being a part of the land which I lately purchased off Robert Studson," (Wm. Barstow to son Joseph, 1666—Plym. Deeds, Vol. III., Pt. 1, P. 115.)

horseback? Might it not have been that Robert launched his rude skiff and paddled his little family down the crooked, sluggish stream* to Stony Brook Cove, and in this way brought his first offering to the altar of the Second Church? We only know that they were baptised that October day. Joseph, Benjamin and Thomas, aged respectively, 6, 4 and 2 years, and that from that day to this there has been no time when a considerable number of the Cornet's descendants were not prominently connected with the old Church.

Cornet Stetson does not seem to have been very active in affairs of the church. It is somewhat difficult to imagine this practical trooper entering very warmly into a dispute over the relative merits of baptism by sprinkling and by immersion, but we notice one instance in which he acts in his usual role of peace-maker with a committee of the church in the interest of harmony. Previous to 1654 there was a continued controversy between the followers of Mr. Chauncy of the First Church, and the followers of the more liberal Mr. Witherell of the Second Church, chiefly over the method of baptism and administration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Mr. Witherell's last letter to Mr. Chauncy in behalf of the Church in 1653 was a special effort to bring about a reconciliation (See copy of this letter, Dean's History of Scituate p. 186). The committee who subscribed themselves to this letter "by order of the church" and as "your brethren in Christ" were Rev. Wm. Witherell, Elder Thomas King, Eph'm Kempton and Robert Stetson. The following year Mr. Chauncy retired and accepted the presidency of Harvard University, and the two societies became harmonious.

We are told that Robert Stetson was "only a cornet" that "he couldn't even write his name." Now if this be true—and there seems to be no evidence that it is not—isn't it remarkable that he should have been chosen repeatedly to represent Scituate, at that time the wealthiest and most populous town in the colony,—Plymouth not excepted—as their deputy to the colony court, and always with, or alternately with, such men as Gen. Cudworth, Lt. James Torrey and John Cushing, who were

*This was true of the river in the days of the Cornet. For ages the river had meandered through the meadows, dodging the islands and hiding behind the sand dunes on the beach, as though hesitating to give up its waters to the sea.

One terrible winter's night (November 26, 1898) the ocean rushed madly through the narrow beach and gave to the river a new mouth. The placid stream was changed over night from the "gentle river" of our childhood days into a deep, rapid, brackish tide-stream. The trees on the low-lands, the grasses on the meadows and even the fishes within its waters have changed, and centuries will elapse before the accumulating sands will again bring about the romantic conditions which prevailed in our youth and in the days of Cornet Stetson.



Photograph by Herman Sturtevant

"HANOVER 4 CORNERS." WHERE THE "TOWNE WAYE" CROSSES THE "COUNTRY ROAD"

Both of these ways are found among "The wayes layd out in 1653 by that jury of which Cornet Stetson was the foreman." (Scituate Records, Vol. 2—upside down—P. 5.)

among the best educated men in Scituate or in the colony? Certain it is that they shared this honor with the unlettered "Cornet of the Troopers" until he had served the town in this capacity for seventeen years: twice as long as any other deputy from Scituate. We must infer from this, that he was a man of unusual ability, and that he had the confidence of the freemen of Scituate. As long as Cornet Stetson lived he was—possibly with one exception*—**the only deputy chosen to represent at the Colony Court that part of Scituate now known as Norwell, Hanover and the "Two Mile" district of Marshfield.**

Cornet Stetson was often employed by both town and colony in their dealings with the Indians, the laying out of roads and land grants, and in the adjustment of difficult situations. For many years the name of "Cornett Stetsun" is the most conspicuous name on the Scituate records. The records of Scituate's town meetings previous to 1666 are lost. After that date the records were kept in the book called the **"Scituate Town Meeting Book,"** and at this first recorded town meeting, held in 1666, Cornet Robert Stetson was chosen first selectman.

The following year Scituate again **"voted to choose three selectmen"** and the Cornet was again chosen first selectman (See page 14). These boards of selectmen, chosen at this time, were given much authority by the court, and after being approved by the magistrates, constituted a little court complete in itself. They were both judges and jurors, were given "power to issue executions and enforce their judgment", were authorized to try all cases involving not over forty shillings, and to settle all differences between the towns people and the Indians.

In July 1646 the following was entered upon the Colony Records:

"Upon complaint by some of the inhabitants of Scittuate that there was great want of heighways to be layed forth and a former jury have beene empaneled to have donn the same who have not yet for divers yeares recorded their verdict the court doth therefore order that a warrant shalbe directed to the constables of Scittuate requireing them to cause a sufficient jury to be empaneled before Mr. Timothy Hatherly, who upon their oathes shall lay forth all such wayes with as much conveniency for the gen'all and as little p'judice to the p'ticulars as may be according to the act of the court (Plym. Colony Court Rec. vol. II P. 106)

In compliance with this order a jury was soon empanelled

*John Bryant who lived just below the 2nd Herring Brook was deputy in 1657, also in 1677 and 1678, when he served with Cornet Stetson. Capt. Joseph Sylvester served in 1689 and 1690 after the Cornet was 78 years of age. Capt. Benj. Stetson was chosen in 1691.

The most chosen are

Capt Edmund
 Cornet Stalson
 Mr Endon

At a Court holding the 2 day of May 1667

Taken for deposits for Bank Cash and the adjournments of
 the same. *Conrad Richard & John*
Isaac Thibault

Witness for Constable Ernest Brooks

Chas W. Fox - *Francis M.* *Elliott* *Joseph Elliott*
J. H. Fox - *John Bernard*

Chapin for Sturgesville, Miss Boston
 Dec 120 night 1843 John Engine

Mr. Downe did agree to Chase these select men
The men chosen are Com^{rs} Richard Stollwer
Mr. Thomas King
Isack Cushman

John Warner said is accounted by the owner to sell
the old good barrels that are in his hands

Record of Town meeting held May 2, 1667; the second meeting on record.
Interesting as showing that at this meeting Cornet Stetson was chosen
deputy to court, first selectman and member of two important
committees with Capt. Cudworth and Joseph Tilden.

before Timothy Hatherly with Cornet Stetson as foreman and ways were speedily laid out. Among the most important of these were the "Towne Way" over Palmers Log Bridge through Greenbush to the harbor, and the "Countrey Road" from "Berstows Bridge" (now North River Bridge) to Hingham.*

We insert a page from the Scituate Records in the handwriting of the town clerk, Lt. Isaac Buck. See opp. page.

"The Towne chose three men to prosecute this order, and the order bearing date the 8 of December 1664 respecting timber.

The men chosen are

Capt. Cudworth

Cornet Stetsun

Mr. Tillden

Att a Towne metting the 2 Day of May 1667.

Chosen for Deputis for June Corte and the adjormente therof

The men chosen are Cornett Robard Stetsun.

Isack Chittenden.

Chosen for Constabls, { Mikiell Pearce,
 { Wm. Brooks.

Chosen for Gran jury (?) men, { Mr. Joseph Tillden,
 { John Bryante.

Chosen for Survayores Wm. Berstow,
for the high ways, John Ensigne.

The Towne Did agree to chose three Select men.

The men chosen are Cornett Robard Stetsun,

Mr. Thomas King,

Isack Chittenden.

John Turner Jur. is appoynted by the Towne to sell the old gun barrells that are in his hands."

*In reference to this "Towne Way" Mr. Francis Lynde Stetson of N. Y. City and Mr. John B. Stetson of Philadelphia, in behalf of the Stetson Kindred, suggested to the people of Norwell that they name this street "Stetson Road" in honor of their earliest settler, and foremost citizen for fifty years, "in just and appropriate recognition of his services as a roadbuilder." This the town of Norwell unfortunately refused to do.

Later the town of Scituate as a fitting tribute to the veteran Commissioner voluntarily gave the name "Cornet Stetson Road" to that portion of the "Town Way" now within the limits of the town of Scituate.

Incidentally these gentlemen were philanthropists, men of the highest character whose ancestors had lived for many generations in Scituate. John B. Stetson during his lifetime gave \$1,000,000 to found the University at Deland, Florida and Mr. Francis Lynde Stetson in his will gave among other bequests \$3,000,000 to Williams College, his Alma Mater.

The Cornet, it seems, was not above availing himself of the offer made by the town of a bounty for the destruction of wolves, and the item "paid Cornet Stetsun for killing a wolf" appears frequently on the records. Another item oft repeated was "paid Cornett Stetsun for powder for the Troopers" sometimes "for the training" is added.

Inducements were early offered by the town of Scituate to any one who would build a mill on the Third Herring Brook, and in 1656 the following was entered on the Scituate and Plymouth colony records. See opp. page.

A Writing appointed to bee recorded
as followeth

Att a full Towne meeting of the towne of Scittuate
November the tenth, 1656

ffree libertie was this day graunted to any man or men of the town to sett up a Saw Mill upon the third herring brooke as neare the North River as conveniently it may bee on these conditions viz: that in case any of the townes men doe bring any Timber unto the Mill to be sawne the owners of the mill shall saw it whether it bee for boards or plank before they saw any of theire owne Timber and they are to have the one halfe for sawing of the other halfe.

And in case any man of the Towne that doth not bring any timber to the mill to be sawne shall want any boards for his owne p'ticulare use the owners of the mill shall sell him boards for his particular use soe many as hee shall need for the Country pay at three shillings and six pence an hundred Inch sawne, but in case the men of the Towne doe not supply the mill with Timber to keep it att worke: the owners of the mill shall have libertie to make use of any Timber upon the common to saw for theire benefitt: and in case any man or men of the towne doe undertake to build a saw mill as aforesaid they shall begine the worke within three monthes after this day or ells this order to bee voide.

JAMES TORREY, Town Clarke

We whose names are underwritten doe testifie, testifie that we were with Robert Stutson att worke the ninth of ffebruary 1656 to provide Timber to build the saw mill that the said Robert Stutson hath built.

JOSEPH WORMELLE, his marke
JOHN HUDSON, his marke
JOSEPH BERSTOW, his marke

Although Mr. Hatherly and Joseph Tilden were associated with Cornet Stetson in building this saw mill on the 3d Herring Brook in 1656 the records seem to indicate that the Cornet was the principle factor in the enterprise and even to this day the "Cornet's old pond" "Cornet's Mill" and "Cornet's Dam" are familiar terms when referring to these localities. We learn however from old deeds at Plymouth that Cornet Stetson in 1662 sold one third part of the mill, possibly all he owned, to Joseph Tilden. (Plym. Deeds Vol. P.) Mr. Tilden was a relative of Mr. Hatherly, settled his estate and eventually came into possession of the mill, for his widow in settling his estate sold the mill in 1673 for 43 pounds (Col. Court Rec. Vol. V P. 121).

It is a fact not generally known that at some time previous to 1674, perhaps as early as 1656, Cornet Stetson also built a mill "at or neare Indian Head River" and it would seem probable that he had already established this mill at Drinkwater long before he sold his interest in the sawmill on the 3d Herring Brook to Joseph Tilden.

The building of this sawmill at Drinkwater (Nan-u-mack-e-uitt) has been shrouded in mystery. Until recently there have been in the various histories only vague references to a Drinkwater Mill. Mr. Barry in 1847 tells of a tradition that a Mill at Drinkwater was burned by the Indians in 1676, but Mitchell and Deane make no mention of the mill. John F. Simmonds, Esq., of Hanover, a very intelligent student of local history, is said to have firmly believed this tradition, but unfortunately died without making public his reasons. Mr. Dwelley in his recent **History of Hanover** discredits the tradition, having found no evidence of a mill there at that early date. (See Dwelley's History of Hanover P. 196-197).

In the light of recent discoveries, **we now have absolute proof that Cornet Stetson's Mill was standing at Drinkwater several years before the Indian Raid and reason for believing it was built some twenty years earlier.**

We know that "In 1656 Fifty acres of land were granted to Robert Studson aded to twenty acres which hee hath bought which was James Davis his land for which the said Robert Studson shewed a deed in court, the said 50 acres of land to lye to the seaward of Plymouth path towards the Indian head river." (Col. Court Rec. 1656).

The Cornet had evidently purchased from James Davis, his right as "an ancient inhabitant" to 20 acres of "Committee land" and then obtained from the colony this grant of 50 acres of the adjoining timberlands.

So it appears that the Cornet came into possession of these

two tracts (70 acres) in the vicinity of Indian Head River later in the same year that he built the saw mill on the Third Herring Brook. The natural conclusion would be that these lands included the site of the "Drinkwater Mill" and that they were secured by the Cornet with the express purpose of erecting there a sawmill.

We also know that **in 1674** the court ordered Thomas Joy of Hingham to pay "Cornett Studson" three pounds and ten shillings and cost of court, (four pounds and eight shillings) for **"continually saying and repeating"** that **"the sawmill of Robert Studson which standeth in Plymouth Colonie neare Scittuate"** **"was on his the said Joys land"** **"whereby the said Studson comes to be greatly damnified."** (Plym. Col. Court Rec. 1674).

This—the Cornet's only law suit—seems to have been brought about in this way: The Colony Court had in a few instances granted land to the colonists without first taking the precaution to extinguish the Indian title. This seems to have been the case with the Cornet's earlier grants near the Indian head River. Thomas Joy, knowing this, quietly procured from Wampatuck on **June 26, 1668** a "gift deed" of the land on which Cornet Stetson had built his mill.

This "gift deed" later recorded at Dedham, is a very interesting document. Thomas evidently did not have a large supply of "currant silver money" or "bills of credit" and succeeded in satisfying Wampatuck as follows: "Know yee that I the said sagamor Josias Wampatuck of Mattakeece for and in Consideration of the great good will and respect that I have and beare unto my well beloved ffriend Thomas Joy of Hingham in New England Carpenter, as also for and in Consideration of the many Curtesies that I have from time to time heretofore from the said Thomas Joy received. Have given, granted, etc." (Norfolk Deeds Lib. V. 462 "Recorded at request of Samuel Joy.")

Unfortunately for Thomas Joy, the Court had authorized the Cornet to negotiate with Wampatucke for the six mile tract Nanumackeuitt (Drinkwater) **on April 13, 1668**, and when, six years later, Thomas Joy "sprung it" on the Cornet, and in response to the Courts summons, came forward with his claims, and produced his "gift deed" he found that Cornet Stetson had a deed from Wampatuck which antedated his own by two months and thirteen days. Hence the verdict for Cornett Studson.

If this mill was burned by the Indians in 1676 the Cornet must have soon rebuilt it for **in 1681 "Cornett Studson" sold to "Ralph Powel of Marshfield, planter, Charles Stockbridge of Scittuate, Millwright, Isaac Barker of Duxborough, planter, and**



THE OLD MILLDAM AT DRINKWATER (NANUMACKEUITT)

Site of Cornet Stetson's Mill in 1673

"The sawmill of Robert Stetson Senr. Standing or being att or neare a river called Indian head river." (Plym. Col. Rec. B. 5. P. 245-246.)

"The sawmill of Cornett Robert Studson which standeth in Plymouth Colonie near Scittuate." (Plym. Col. Court Records 1674)

Robert Barker of Duxborough, planter," "his saw-mill standing or being at or neare a river called Indian Head River, above and to the westward of Wampa's swamp. . . . on consideration of the sum of three hundred pounds currant silver money." (Plym. Col. Rec. B5 P. 245-246).

The building of a mill for which Charles Stockbridge and his partners were willing to pay in 1681, the sum of "three hundred pounds currant silver money" must have been quite an enterprise for those days. This was half a century before Hanover was incorporated, and must have contributed much to the early development of the town. Information of the earliest settlers in the vicinity of Drinkwater Mill is very meagre indeed, but certainly the Cornet would not have built a mill in this remote quarter without patronage: there must have been at least immediate prospect of a settlement. It is safe to say the settlement of this region dated practically from the building of the saw mill.*

Many hundred acres of the territory surrounding the mill eventually became the property of Cornet Stetson.

Mr. Barry in his History of Hanover and later Dr. Briggs and Mr. Dwelley, all tell of a tradition or legend, that the name Drinkwater was derived from the fact that no strong drink was used at the raising of the early mill, but after consulting many authorities we are fully convinced that **Drinkwater is simply the literal translation of the Indian name Nanumackeuitt.**

The story of the Cornet's purchase from Chickatabutt of the six mile tract Nan-u-mack-e-uitt, and also the story of the mill, should properly appear in a sketch of the Cornet, but as we have already published elsewhere a detailed account of "The Cornet's Purchase" and "Drinkwater Mill" we refer the reader to Stetson Kindred Booklet No. 5. p. 33 where we have spoken of this Mill at length believing it of much importance in connection with the early history of Scituate and Hanover. We also believe that **its establishment previous to 1674 antedates by many years any other business enterprise within the present limits of Hanover.**

We should not lose sight of the fact that during the Cornet's lifetime and for more than a quarter of a century after his death, Hanover was part of Scituate, and the Cornet whether as leader of the horsemen, member of the Council of War, Colony Commissioner, deputy to Court, selectman, or surveyor, was all these years a representative and citizen of that portion of Scituate now comprising the towns of Hanover, Norwell and the two mile district in Marshfield.

* (ie. between 1656 when the Cornet received his first grant here from the colony, and 1673 when Thos. Joy claimed the land on which the mill was located.)

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Great white, paleo and silvered
for the purpose of fashioning muslin

[illegible]

CHICKATABUTTS DEED OF NANUMACKEUITT (DRINKWATER) TO CORNET STETSON IN 1668

Evidently recorded in 1674, at the time of the suit with Thos. Joy.

This tract covers six square miles, including the villages of West Hanover and North Hanson, Beech Hill and portions of Whitman and Rockland.

"Know all men by these presents that **Josias Chickatabutte Sachem of Namassakesett** in the government of New Plymouth in New England in America hath bargained, sold allied enfeoffed and confirmed unto **Cornet Robert Studson** in the Jurisdiction of New Plymouth aforesaid, and by these p'sents do bargain, sell and allien enfeofe and confirme unto the said Studson, his heires and assigns forever a **certain tract or p'cell of land by the Indians commonly called Nanumackeuitt** for a valuable consideration to him in hand fully payed and satisfied. The said lands are bounded on the north by the lands formerly graunted to Mr Timothy Hatherly, and is to run by his line two miles west into the woods; and on the east is bounded by the line of the town of Scituate and is to run three miles in length southerly from Mr. Hatherlys, his said graunt upon the townes line and soe againe two miles westerly upon Mr. Hatherly's line upon the other syde: and three miles againe noth erly to meet with the first line all which Tract of land soe bounded as is above expressed, with all the woods, waters, benefitts, priviledges and emunities thereunto appertaining and belonging hee the said Josias hath sold and by these p'sents doth convey and passe over from himself and his heires forever unto said Studson and his heires:—unto the said Studson:—**The said Josias hath only reserved unto him selfe and his men libertie of hunting with their Guns on said lands:** and the said Josias doth allow the said Cornet Studson to cause this deed to be involved in the records of New Plymouth or any other Register in New England in New England and doth further engage att the said Cornett's charge att any time to make him such further assurance as according to law may be required and doth warrant the said lands att this present time to be free from all Intanglement and Incomberance and shall defend the same against all p'rsons claiming from by or under him for true performance whereof hee hath hereunto sett his hand and seale **this thirteenth day of Aprill Anno Dom. 1668.**

Signed Sealed and delivered
in the presence of—Josias Winslow,
John Brown.



JOSIAS CHICKATABUTT
his F O marke and a seal.

In 1658 the Cornet's family consisted of eight children, the oldest being thirteen years of age, and "being in want of a convenient way from his home to the meeting this court doth request and appoint Mr. Timothy Hatherly and Captain Cudworth with any other whom they shall choose to lay out a foote way from the uper meeting house att the North River in Scittuate up the said river to the house of Robert Studson soe as may be most convenient." (Plym. Col. Court Rec. Vol. III P. 139.) They chose the town clerk Lieut. James Torrey, and laid out a "foote way" as requested.

"Cornett Studson His Marke" appears frequently, but we have nowhere discovered his signature, and are forced to assume that he could not write. It follows of course that he wrote no letters and left but few papers, and in order to form an estimate of his character we can only study the times in which he lived, his friendships and associates, together with his public life. Fortunately we find on the town and colony records many references to his public life, for after he became known at court he served the colony, as well as the town, almost continually in one capacity or another, as long as his age permitted. It is a remarkable circumstance considering the Cornet's lack of education that most of his intimate associates were men of exceptional character, education and even refinement. Probably it was this lack of education that prevented him from occupying the higher positions in the government.

In 1658 the Colony Court realizing that the horsemen of the various towns should be organized for the protection of the colony, ordered raised a "troop of horse" which was to be "well appointed with furniture, viz., a Saddle and case of patternels for each horse." "Patternels" were huge pistols carried by cavalry in the fifteenth century. Later each trooper was ordered to have a suitable horse in condition always ready for immediate service. Governor Bradford's son William of Plymouth was commissioned captain of this company, Gov. Prence's son-in-law (his only son was in England) John Freeman of Eastham was commissioned lieutenant and Robert Studson of Scituate was commissioned Cornet. (Plym. Col. Court Rec. Vol. III P. 174). This at once became the most valuable company in the colony and consisted of three "squadrons," one at Plymouth, under Captain Bradford, one at Eastham under Lieut. Freeman, and one at Scituate under Cornet Stetson. The full company met only on special occasions and at the annual trainings.

We have been unable to discover any record of the part taken by Scituate in the expedition against the Pequots in 1637.

In 1654 the Commissioners of the United Colonies ordered

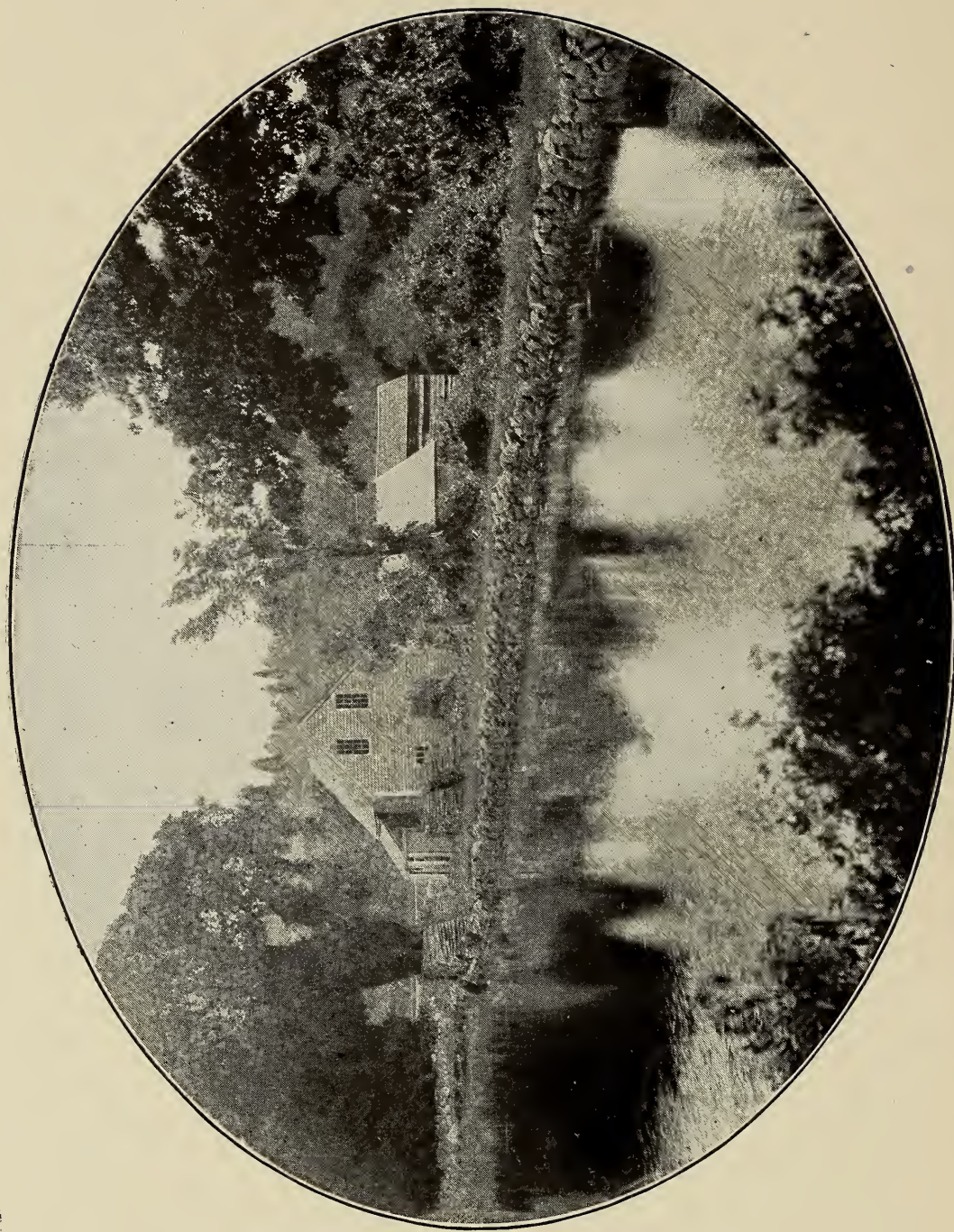
an expedition against the Dutch at Manhattan under Major Sedgwick of Massachusetts Bay. Plymouth colony furnished sixty men for the expedition under Captain Myles Standish. Doubtless Robert Stetson was active in these operations but we can have no proof, as only the commissioned officers are mentioned in the reports. It is however reasonable to infer that the Colony Court would not have selected Robert Studson for one of the leaders of the troopers in 1658, unless he had previously demonstrated his fitness for the position.

To assist the towns in "setting forth" the troopers, the Court allowed each town 30 shillings per horse for every horse they set forth. (Plym. Col. Court Rec. Vol. III P. 166) and ordered that certain fines belonging to the "Countrey" should be appropriated for this purpose, the towns to receive 3 pounds for each horseman selected, "said moneys to be employed as the towns shall see cause for the ends aforesaid" (Plym. Col. Court Rec. Vol. III P. 159). The following year the court allowed Major Winslow to add to the troop until their number should be forty-eight beside the three commissioned officers, all to serve for at least three years (Plym. Col. Court Rec. Vol. III P. 193).

We well remember our youthful conception of Cornet Stetson, i.e., a valiant horseman, mounting a fierce steed: a sort of knight errant who roamed the forest seeking adventure with the Indians. Of course we subsequently came to know that most of his dealings with the Indians were of a peaceful nature. Nevertheless we can at least think of him as a sturdy horseman, for his home was a long way from his mills, the church and "the Harbor" and his constant service as deputy to Plymouth, Commissioner and Cornet of the Troopers, must have kept him constantly in the forest, often with no companion except his faithful horse.

We learn from the Scituate records that "Cornit Stetsun's Marke" in 1660 by which his "cattle" were identified on the commons, consisted of "a marke in the neare eare with a piece cut out of the hinder part of the eare close to the head C slit cut into the eare above it thus". Here was inserted a rude diagram of the mutilated "neare eare". This same year, 1660, the Cornet registered to run on the commons "one horse of four years—one geldinge of four yeares—and one mear of three years" (Scituate Records) showing that the "Cornet of Horse" was not to be caught without a fresh steed.

Recently after hours spent in searching the old records at Plymouth we retired to old "Burial Hill" taking the seat on the highest point where the view of the harbor is unobstructed: a seat by the way which every visitor to Burial Hill is sure to



"SAM CHURCH'S MILL" ON 3D HERRING BROOK

Above Cornet's Old Pond—"Curtis Mill" in 1678.

Samuel H. Church, son of Samuel Stetson Church, was descended from the Cornet's sons Joseph, Benjamin and Thomas.

occupy. Directly before us, occupying the most conspicuous place on the hill, was the modest monument of Governor William Bradford, and at its base, side by side, two headstones. On one we read:

“Here lies the body
of ye honorable Major
William Bradford
who expired Feb.
ye 20th, 1703-4
aged 79 years.

He lived long and still was doing good,
And in his country's service lost much blood.
After a life well spent he's now at rest.
His very name and memory is blest.”

and on the other

“IN MEMORY OF
BRADFORD, SON TO MR.
CALEB STITSON &
MRS. ABIGAIL HIS
WIFE WHO DEC'D
SEPT. YE 5th 1758
AGED I YEAR 3 MONTHS
AND 15 DAYS”

Now Major Bradford had been the “Captain Bradford” of the first and only company of horsemen raised in Plymouth Colony, “The Troopers”: and Robert Studson was his cornet, with whom he must have been on the most intimate terms. “Caleb Stitson” was the Cornet's great grandson, and “Abigail (Bradford) Stitson” was the Major's great grand daughter, while little “Bradford Stitson” who has had the honor of sleeping beside the Major for one hundred and sixty years, bearing the name of the major as well as the Cornet, was the great-great-grandson of both: so we realize that the Cornet's descendants should have a special interest in Old Burial Hill.

Captain Bradford and Lieut. Freeman were of the “Young bloods” of the Colony: to use a popular phrase they “had a pull.” Were they given these positions because of their education and social position? While Robert Studson a tried yeoman belonging to an earlier generation might reasonably be supposed to have been selected for his experience, mature judgment and counsel? We feel sure that the choice of leaders for this ancient company of horse was the result of wise deliberation, and imagine these young adventurers, Capt. Bradford and Lieut. Freeman, and even the more mature Cornet Studson, experienced a

Journey to the Sachem Philip

This Court allowed unto the Major in reference to his journey
 to the Sachem Philip in the behalf of the Countrey the summe of five pounds.
 To Captain Southworth for his paines and time, forty shillings.
 To the treasurer respecting his long time and paines three pounds.
 To Cornett Robert Studson, his horse, time and paines forty shillings.
 Two shillings and six pence a day is allowed unto the troopers
 to each of them that went on the above said expedition, viz., to each of
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peculiar pride in being chosen leaders of this troop of horse. Captain Bradford later became Major in Philip's war was seriously wounded in the "Naragansett fight" and was afterwards a Commissioner, Colony Treasurer, Deputy Governor, etc. Lieut. Freeman became Major of the Barnstable regiment, and one of the magistrates.

In reviewing the histories of Plymouth Colony during the war with King Philip (Metacom) and for the twenty years previous, we learn much of Major Winslow, Colony Treasurer Constant Southworth, Gen. James Cudworth, Major William Bradford and Captain Thomas Southworth, but if in addition to what has been written about these worthy men, we turn to the original records and read for ourselves just what is recorded of the proceedings of the government during that period, we will be surprised to discover how closely associated with these men in all their undertakings was the modest and unique character, "Robert Studson" "Cornett of the Troopers."

Some years before the breaking out of Philip's War, Major Josias Winslow, Captain Thomas Southworth and Colony Treasurer Constant Southworth were commissioned to visit King Philip at Mount Hope "to beard the lion in his den" and if possible turn him from his purpose of exterminating the colonists. Cornet Stetson and his "squadron" of troopers were sent with the commissioners, for although at that time the Cornet was well past his prime, evidently he still led the Troopers.

How interesting would be the story of this journey to King Philip: the ride of the commissioners and the Troopers to Mount Hope, the meeting and interview with the Indian sachem, and other incidents of the journey, but we have only Colonial Secretary Nathaniel Morton's brief record, less than a dozen lines, of the expense to "the countrey" of the expedition: enough, however, to enable us by reading between the lines, to form a very interesting picture. We leave the details to the imagination of the reader. The following from the Colony Records we believe to be the only official record of this expedition. (See opp. page)

We note that the services of the Captain, the Treasurer, and the Cornet were considered of practically the same value.

Now "The Major" was Josias Winslow, son of Governor Edward Winslow and at this time the military leader in the colony. A little later he was made Governor of Plymouth and appointed General in chief of all the forces of the United Colonies. The historian Drake says, "Gov. Josias Winslow lived in his ample paternal mansion at Marshfield and his hospitality was not only generous but magnificent. He had acquired the distinction of being the most accomplished gentleman and the most delightful companion in the colony."

Captain Thomas Southworth was step-son of Governor Bradford by whom he had been educated to succeed Elder Brewster. He was afterward preferred for a position in the government. He became Commissioner, Assistant governor and governor of Kenebec Plantation, while "The Treasurer" who received pay for "his long time and paines" was Constant Southworth, a brother of Captain Thomas, also educated by his step-father, Gov. Bradford. He was governor's assistant, and for long years treasurer of the Colony.

We may be pardoned if we call attention to the Cornet's unique position. An illiterate Cornet of Troopers serving repeatedly on the most important commissions of the government, apparently on terms of the most intimate friendship and equality with Governor, General, Major, Captain, etc., the civil, military and social leaders of his day. Certainly a most remarkable situation.

In 1662 the following appears on the Court Records: "Whereas: Notwithstanding all former provision made for the perfecting of the line betwixt the Massachusetts and this Collonie from Accord Pond westward hath been hitherto obstructed, the neglect wherof being soe greivous to them and to us, and soe hurtful in sundry respects" **"This Court doth therefore order that Major Josias Winslow, Captain Constant Southworth and Cornet Robart Studson be a committee fully impowered to acte in perfecting of the said line and to conclude the right therof according to the graunt of the charter of our Colonie: and soe ther may bee a finall issue put to that controversy."** (Plym. Col. Court Rec. Vol. IV P. 24).

In a recent number of the Stetson Kindred booklet we described the establishment of the "Pattent Line". As the reader may not have access to the volume, and it being an important incident in the life of the Cornet, we reprint it here as it appeared in the booklet under the title

"The Angletree Stone."

In the year 1640, Gov. Endicott and Assistant Governor Israel Stoughton of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, with Gov. Bradford and Ex-Gov. Edw. Winslow of the Plymouth Colony, attempted to establish the line between the two colonies, but the result was very unsatisfactory. After several other unsuccessful attempts, this line was permanently established in 1664 by a commission consisting of Major Eleazer Lusher, Captain Roger Clapp* and Lieut. Joshua Fisher of the Mass. Bay, and Major

*Captain Roger Clapp, one of the founders of Dorchester, was appointed by the "General Court" "Captain of the Castle" (now known as Fort Independence) in Boston Harbor. He held the office 21 years, resigning in 1686 at the age of 77. He was much respected, and best known as author of the valuable "Memoirs of Roger Clapp" written soon after Philip's War. (Clapp Memorial)

Josiah Winslow, Treas. Constant Southworth and Cornet Robert Stetson of the Plymouth Colony.

These commissioners reported that "in pursuance of the service aforesaid being all assembled at Dedham the 9th of the 3rd moneth comonly called May, anno 1664, did the day next ensuing trauaile together into the woods" etc. (Mass. Colonial Rec. No. 446).

After running a straight line from the middle of Accord Pond on the northern border of Scituate, west, to a point within a few miles of the Colony limits, these ancient surveyors turned abruptly to the left and made a bee line for the border, thus forming an angle marked by a white oak which they called the "White Oak Angle tree."

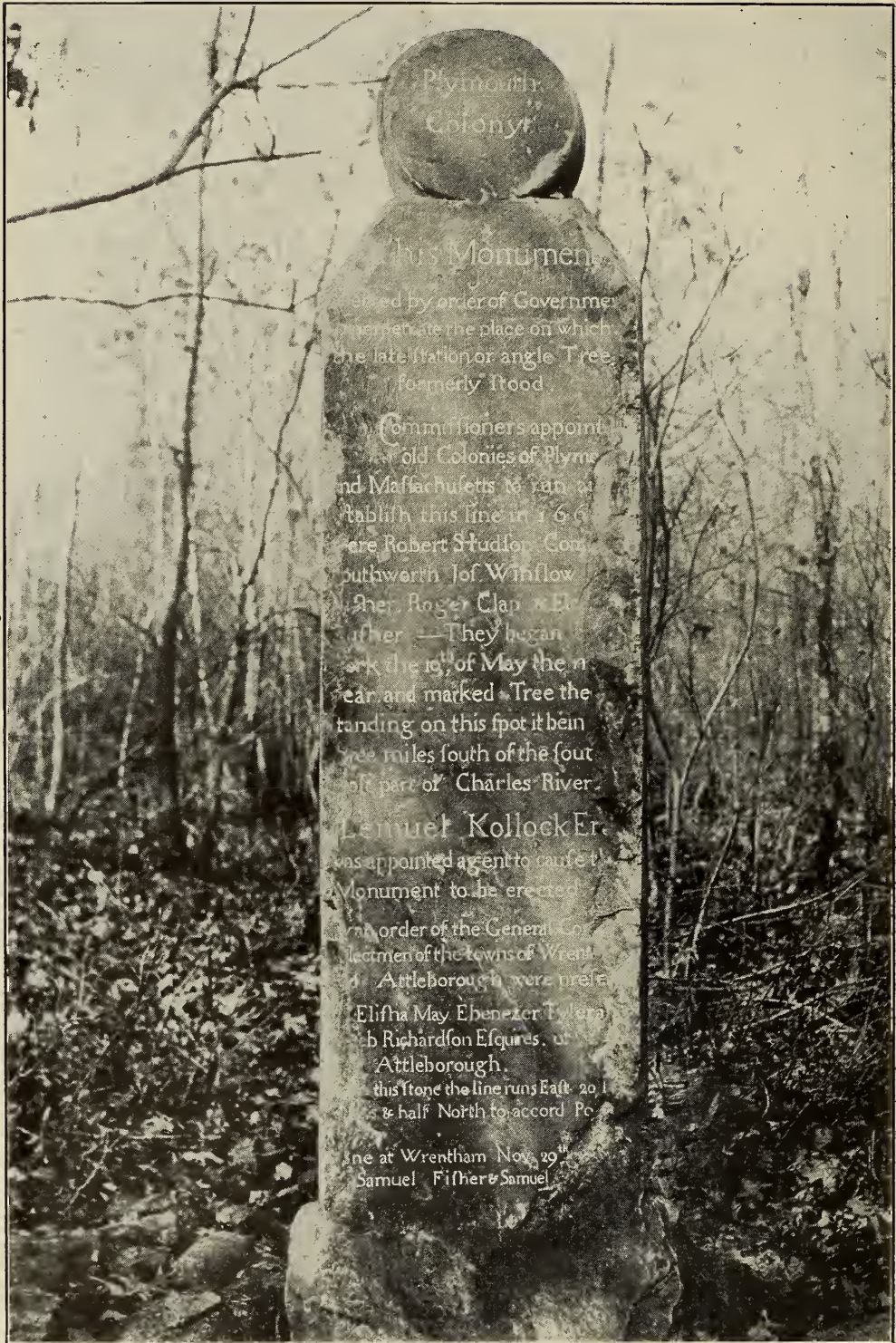
We notice some further trouble with the pattent line in 1670 when Capt. Joshua Hobart and Lieut. Fisher, were appointed by the Bay government to meet with Plymouth commissioners "to find out the pattent lyne from Accord Pond to Bound Brook at Connihassett and see it is well and sufficiently marked." They reported to the "Honored General Court" in 1672 that the only Plymouth Commissioner "who did meete with us about the worke" was "Cornet Stetson" who said "They, (Maj. Winslow and Capt. Southworth) should concurr with what wee did." They further reported, "Wee runn that lyne after much difficulty to fynd out what point it runn upon by reason of badnes of the land to trauaile upon in regard to the many swamps and thicke beachy land." (Mass. Bay Col. Rec. 1672.)

A score of townships on either side "flatten up" against this "Old Colony Line" and the inhabitants in running out old lines or in making new, continue as of old to take their bearings from the "Old Colony" or "Pattent line."

But even Angle trees will not last forever and after standing on the spot a lonely sentinel for one hundred and twenty-six years the old tree died and was replaced by act of the Massachusetts legislature in 1790 with a rude stone monument since known as the "Angletree stone."

The stone is marked on the north side "Massachusetts Colony" and on the south side "Plymouth Colony" and the following inscription is cut on both sides.

"This monument, erected by order of the government to perpetuate the place on which the late station or angle tree formerly stood. The commissioners appointed by the old colonies of Plymouth and Massachusetts to run out and establish this line in 1664 were ROBERT STUDSON, CONSTANT SOUTHWORTH, JOSIAS WINSLOW, JOS. FISHER, ROGER CLAPP and ELEAZER LUSHER. They began this work on



THE ANGLE-TREE STONE

the 10th day of May, the same year, and marked a tree then standing on this spot, it being (3) miles south of the southernmost part of Charles river. Lemuel Kollock, Esq., was appointed agent to cause this monument to be erected. By an order of the General Court the Selectmen of the towns of Wrentham and Attleborough were present, viz.: Samuel Fisher, John Whiting, Nathan Hawes, Nathan Comstock and Nathaniel Ware, Esquires of Wrentham. From this stone the line runs due west the extent of the Commonwealth. Done at Wrentham the 29th day of Nov., 1790, by Samuel Fisher and Son."

Another century and a quarter has past and the "Angletree stone" must soon go the way of its predecessor "the Angle tree" unless something is done to protect it.

Leaving the country road and following a lonely wood path for 80 rods or more into the deep woods we came upon "the Angletree stone." Although thoughtless sportmen have used it for a target and relic hunters have sadly battered the corners, the inscription on either side can still be easily read. "Cornet Studson" heading the list of commissioners as in the original report in 1664.

These six lusty Pilgrims and Puritans who stood around the "Angletree" that May day two hundred and fifty-three years ago, and whose names are carved on the stone, represented the military leaders of the two colonies at that time.

The new town of Plainville has for a corner bound, the Angletree stone, a cut of which has also been adopted as the town seal, and will head the official papers of the town for the centuries to come.

We believe that this **old "Angletree stone"**, marking an important historical event of two hundred and fifty-three years ago, is truly one of the most interesting and valuable landmarks within the Commonwealth, and should be protected.

The Indian Trading Post established at Kennebec in 1627 was the most important business enterprise in which the Pilgrims engaged. The original proprietors were William Bradford, Myles Standish, Isaac Allerton, Edward Winslow, William Brewster, John Howland, John Alden and Thomas Prince. (See Gov. Bradford's History).

Governor Bradford in his "history of Plimouth Plantation" gives a very interesting account of many difficulties attending the management of the Kennebec Plantation. Some of the people at Massachusetts Bay, as well as the Dutch settlers at New Amsterdam were continually interfering with the trade and Thomas Morton of Wollaston fame, an unscrupulous Englishman, found it profitable to supply the Indians with fire arms, ammunition, etc., until they became a menace to the colonists.

Gov. Bradford tells us of a trading voyage of "the barke" laden with commodities to the Kennebec in 1634 in which "the sole right to the trad" was disputed by one Hocking of Mass. Bay. Hocking had anchored in the Kennebec river with the purpose of intercepting the Indian trade before it reached the trading post. During the altercation that ensued Hocking shot and killed Moses Talbot one of the crew of the barke, whereupon his friend John Alden seized a musket and shot Hocking. In the words of Governor Bradford "one of the fellows who loved him well, could not hold but shot Hocking dead." This was John Alden who was later arrested and detained at Boston by the Bay government, and, oddly enough, it was his old rival Myles Standish who was dispatched to the Bay Government to secure his release. However devoted John may have been to Priscilla, evidently his life was not all poetry. John Alden had his troubles.

Of course some of these things happened before the day of Cornet Stetson, but the troubles continued long after the Cornet's arrival. In 1655, Josias Winslow Senior, (brother of Gov. Edward) Mr. Josiah Winslow Jr., (The Major) Mr. Thomas Hinckley (later Gov.) Thomas Clarke and "Cornett Studson" were appointed "a committee to meett with the majistrates att the next court of Assistants to treat with them about the letting of the trad att Kennebecke and about regulating the disorders of the Gov'ment there as alsoe to take the accounts of the Treasurer in behalf of the countrey." (Plym. Col. Court Rec. Vol. III P. 86-87).

In 1659 the court requested each town "to send a representative invested with full power in their behalfe to treat and conclude about settling of the trad at Kennebecke which was much interrupted by reason of some troubles amongst the Indians, to the great discouragment of the p'sent farmers therof." (Plym. Col. Court Rec. Vol III P 170). Robert Stetson was the representative sent from Scituate. These met with the "farmers of the trad" ie. "Governor Prence" "Mistris Aalice Bradford" (the Governor's widow) "Capt. Thomas Willett"* (a wealthy partner from Mass. Bay) and "Major Josias Winslow" to settle the difficulties. (Col. Court Rec. Vol. III P. 182).

The next year, 1660, Major Winslow, Captain Thomas Southworth, "The Treasurer" Cornett Studson and Josias Winslow, Senior, were "empowered to acte for the Countrey in all matters relating to the trad at Kennebecke" also "to sell or otherwise dispose of the said trad in the countrey's behalfe." (Plym. Col. Court Rec. Vol III P. 194). This was accomplished and the following is the last item we find on the records regarding the Kennebec Plantation.

*The first mayor of N. Y. after its capture by the English in 1665

"June 1, 1663 . Att this court, Cornett Studson was appointed by the Court to accompany the Treasurer (Constant Southworth) in demanding and receiving the moneys due the countrey from the purchasers of Kennebecke." (Plym. Col. Court Rec. Vol IV, P. 38). These few sentences recorded by Secretary Nathaniel Morton are all the information we have concerning the Cornet's part in closing up the affairs of the Kennebec Plantation, but there must have been at least one more long journey with Treasurer Southworth to the Kennebec country.

In 1665 "Cornett Studson for his services to the countrey to acte in all matters relating to the Kennebecke" was granted 200 acres of land at Drinkwater as follows:

"June 7, 1665 Prence Governor," "two hundred acres of land is granted to Cornett Studson on the southerly side of the three mile square of land formerly graunted unto Mr. Hatherly, the said 200 acres to be laid out by the Major and the Treasurer" "also The Court have graunted unto Major Josias Winslow a farme of two hundred acres of upland with meddow suitable . . . in regard to his extreordinary and emergent charges by him expended on the countreys occasions in any part of the gov'tment and the court have appointed Mr. Constant Southworth and Cornett Studson to lay it out for him" (Col. Court Rec. Vol. IV P. 95)

In searching these old records, we occasionally run across amusing entries like the following: "In reference to a box attached by John Rickard for a debt of fifteen shillings due from Elizabeth More, the Court have awarded unto the said Rickard a petticoate of the said Mores which is to answare the said debt and charges of said suite." (Col. Court Rec. Vol. IV P. 141) We can imagine the chagrin of John Rickard at being awarded a ladies petticoat in lieu of his fifteen shillings. Perhaps the reader may inquire what bearing these notes have on the life of Robert Stetson. Well perhaps none, unless they go to show that these old magistrates and deputies (our Cornet was one of them) were not as austere and destitute of humor as many are led to believe.

William Randall of Scituate was a valuable citizen notwithstanding the fact that he and his wife were continually at odds with their neighbors. On one occasion he was fined three shillings and four pence for breaking the King's peace by "poakeing" Jeremiah Hatch with a "ho pole." We have not discovered just what a "ho pole" might be but are willing to allow that he probably succeeded in making Jeremiah extremely uncomfortable. The following from the Colony records of 1665 illustrating the suave manner in which the Court sometimes adjusted diffi-

culties is another instance in which the Cornet was useful as a peacemaker.

"An order directed to the townsmen of Scituate as followeth:"

"The Court hath bine enformed of your reddines to appoint some of your Townesmen to the healing about the settling of the bounds of some lands of William Randall which hath bine hindered of accomplishment of that worke by some unworthy speeches of said Randall: Yett being very desirous of your peace as our owne therefore wee request that you would againe nominate some other p'sons for that worke and desire that with your leave that you request Cornet Studson to be healpful to the aforesaid Humphrey Turner and Walter Woodward to doe the same. This is the desire of the rest of the Magistrates as your frind acquaints you.

THOMAS SOUTHWORTH, (Asst.)

(Col. Court Rec. Vol. 1v P. 100)

Annually after the choice of governor and the magistrates, two commissioners and the treasurer were chosen, the Treasurer by virtue of his office, as keeper and distributor of the "countreys moneys" also often acted with the commissioners where the business concerned the colony alone. These were all chosen from the Magistrates, and during the twenty or more years during which the Cornet was connected with the government Major Winslow was always chosen Commissioner, and Constant Southworth, Treasurer; and the second Commissioner was either Captain Thomas Southworth, Gov. Prence or Thomas Hinckley who served until chosen governor. These Commissioners were of course "United Commissioners" and were chosen to act with Commissioners from the other Colonies at their annual meetings on matters in which all the colonies were concerned, but they also acted for the Colony in the same capacity as do our "County Commissioners" of today. When some important enterprise was to be undertaken a special commissioner was often selected from the deputies and this usually fell to the lot of Cornet Stetson. It will be seen that the Commissioners formed a very important branch of the government. They not only supervised the building of roads, bridges and public buildings as do the "County Commissioners" of today, but were left to solve the more perplexing problems as the settlement of the affairs of the troublesome Kennebec Plantation, the dispute over the "pattent line", the purchase of Indian lands and as emisaries to the Indian Chiefs.

As we follow the unique career of the Cornet it is interesting to notice that to whatever position he might be chosen, he was

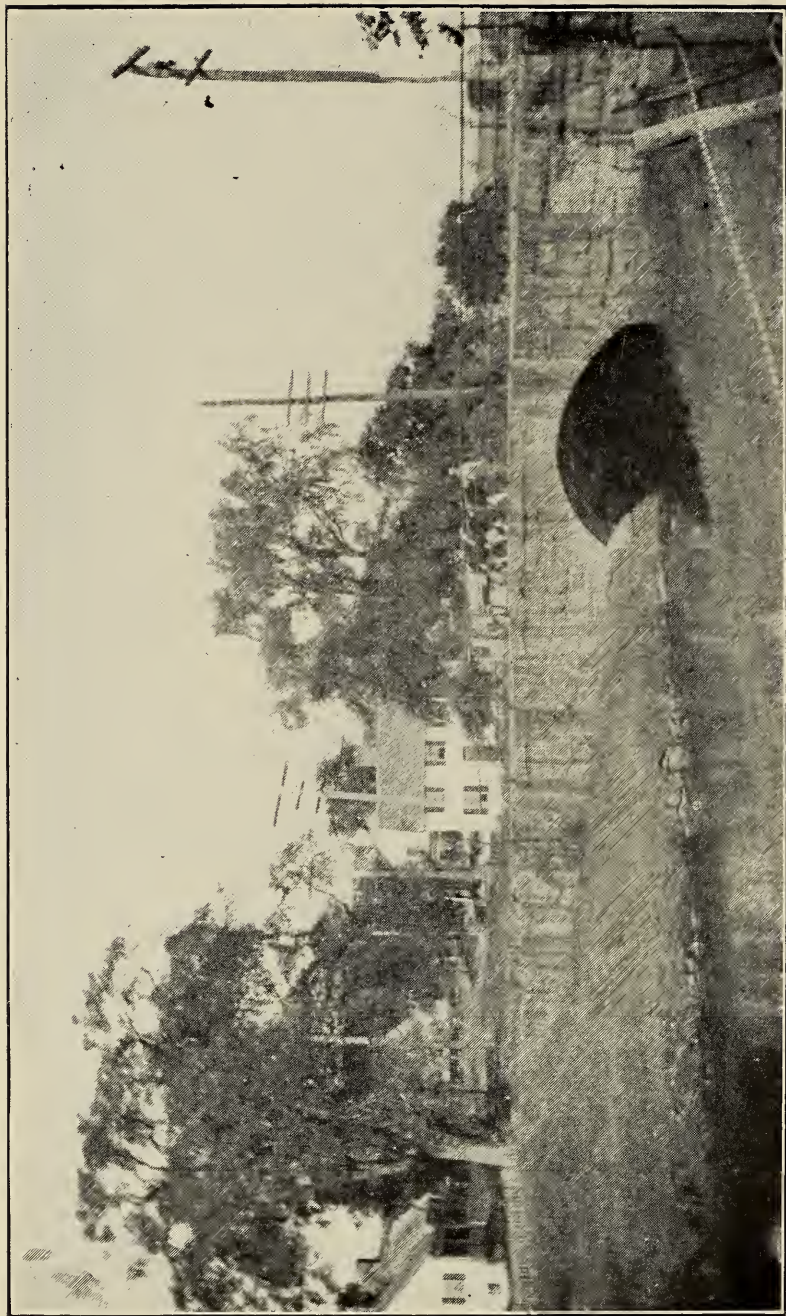
always re-elected: whether Cornet, Deputy, or Commissioner, Selectman or Surveyor, he was invariably returned to office, Another amusing feature is that on these commissions and committees, whether headed by "the Governor" "the Commissioner" or "the Treasurer" the General, the Major or the Captain, he usually brings up with "his marke" at the "tail end" of the line: it is, nevertheless reassuring to always find him there. There was however one notable exception, a case where the Cornet "had it over" the Major, for when the names of the United Commissioners appeared on the "Angletree stone" through some unaccountable over-sight they became transposed, and there at the head of the list, cut into the stone for all time, stands the name of Robert Studson, and arranged below inversely as to their rank, the Majors and Captains of Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay.



GEORGE STETSON HOUSE, KINGSTON (ANCIENT WASHBURN PLACE)

Sketched by Thos. Drew Stetson to preserve the outlines of his birthplace when about to be destroyed to make room for the present mansion.—See next page.

Jones River Bridge over Jones River and Barstow's Bridge over North River, the most important bridges in the colony were located on the "Countrey Road" the highway between Plymouth and Boston. Jones River Bridge seems to have been continually out of repair. In 1662 "Captain Wm. Bradford" "The Treasurer" and "Cornett Studson" were appointed "to procure workmen to mende Joanes River bridge." (Col. Court Rec. Vol. IV P. 23). Again in 1663 "The Major" "The Treasurer" and "Cornet Studson" were appointed "to agree with workmen to repaire the



THE PRESENT "JONES RIVER BRIDGE," KINGSTON (FORMERLY PLYMOUTH)

In 1666 "The Major," "The Treasurer," and "Cornett Studson" were appointed "to take course and agree with workmen for the building of Joneses River Bridge."

bridge at Joanses River or erect a new one." (Col. Court Rec. Vol. IV P. 41) In 1665 "Cornett Studson and William Peabody were appointed and requested to have the oversight of the worke in the rebuilding of the bridge at Joneses River intended and ordered to be done by the countrey" (Col. Court Rec. Vol. IV P. 199) and we think the bridge must have been rebuilt the following year (1666) as "The Major" "The Treasurer" and "Cornett Studson" were "appointed to take course and agree with the workmen for the building of Joneses River Bridge." Col. Court Rec. Vol. V P. 128) After this we find no further reference to this bridge.

These bridges over "Joneses River" which caused "The Major" "The Treasurer" and "Cornet Studson" so much trouble in the early days, on account of the strong tides and floating ice in winter were replaced in 1715 by a new bridge, further up the stream, on the site of the present Jones River Bridge.

The picture of the bridge was taken from the George Stetson Place, and the little cottage in the fork of the roads showing obscurely through the branches of the great elm in the picture, rests on the site of the house built by Elisha Stetson 1st in 1709. Three Elishas with their large families have occupied the spot.

Elisha Stetson and his brother "Caleb Stetson, shipwright" grandsons of Cornet Stetson came to Plymouth (afterwards Kingston) from North River in Scituate, and married in 1707 and 1705, respectively Abigail and Sarah Brewster, great grand daughters of Elder Brewster. They settled on portions of Gov. Bradford's estate. Caleb soon after established a ship yard further down the stream. On Nov. 12, 1714 Ephraim Bradford granted to Wrestling Brewster 13 acres "att Jones River near ye landing Place where Caleb Stetson's building yard was wont to be". (Plym. Deeds, B. 11 P.76)

Governor Prence was a man of imposing presence, dignified and conscientious; although bigoted he was popular, and most of the colonists seemed to be in sympathy with him. He did not look with favor on Mr. Hatherly, Mr. Browne or Captain Cudworth, who were liberal and tolerant in advance of the age. When Governor Prence asked for "more room" it was "ordered by the Court that a convenient hansome rome be aded to the governors house" and "the Major, the treasurer and Cornett Studson are empowered to take course for the procuring of the thinge done." (Col. Court Rec. Vol. IV P. 44)

It would be tiresome to enumerate all of the land transactions on record in which the Cornet assisted. We mention only a few of the most important.

March 30, 1663 "Leiftenant Torrey, Cornett Studson and Joseph Tilden" were appointed by the Court to lay out the nine mile tract known as the "Hatherly Grant." Notwithstanding the fact that this was "ordered to be done immediately", for some reason it was not done and in 1665 James Torrey and William Barstow laid it out, but immediately after, Lt. Torrey, "and **Cornett Studson if he may be obtained**" were appointed to lay out 200 acres adjoining the Hatherly grant on the southwest, to James Lovell which they did (Col. Court Rec.) This land was originally laid out to Nathaniel Souther and is now a part of Abington, including that portion on which stands the high school building and the American Legion Memorial; it also embraces a portion of the beautiful Evergreen Cemetery.

In 1663 "Josias Leichfeild" made choice of "Leiftenant Torrey and Cornet Studson" to be his guardians (Col. Court Rec. Vol. IV P. 39). This is of interest to us as Josias Litchfield later married Sarah, the daughter of Rev. Nicholas Baker of the First Church, had thirty grand children and a remarkably large posterity, including all the Litchfield families of Scituâte and vicinity.*

In 1665 "the Major" "the Treasurer" and "Cornett Studson" were "deputed by the Court to make sale of such lands as belong to the country not exceeding 800 acres." (Col. Court Rec. Vol. IV P. 109).

In 1668 "Takeing notice of much injury alreddy don and more likely to ensue to this collonie by having sundry of our swamps pillaged . . . do therfore impower Major Josias Winslow, Mr. Thomas Southworth, The Treasurer and Cornett Studson to sell soe many of the swampes belonging to the collonie as they shall see cause, to the best advantage of the Collonie" also "The Treasurer and Cornett Studson to lay out to Gorge Vicory and Gorg Partrich 60 acres each between John Hanmores lot and the line of the Collonie to the westward of the Old path leading from Bridgewater to Waymoth." (Col. Court Rec. Vol. V P. 189)

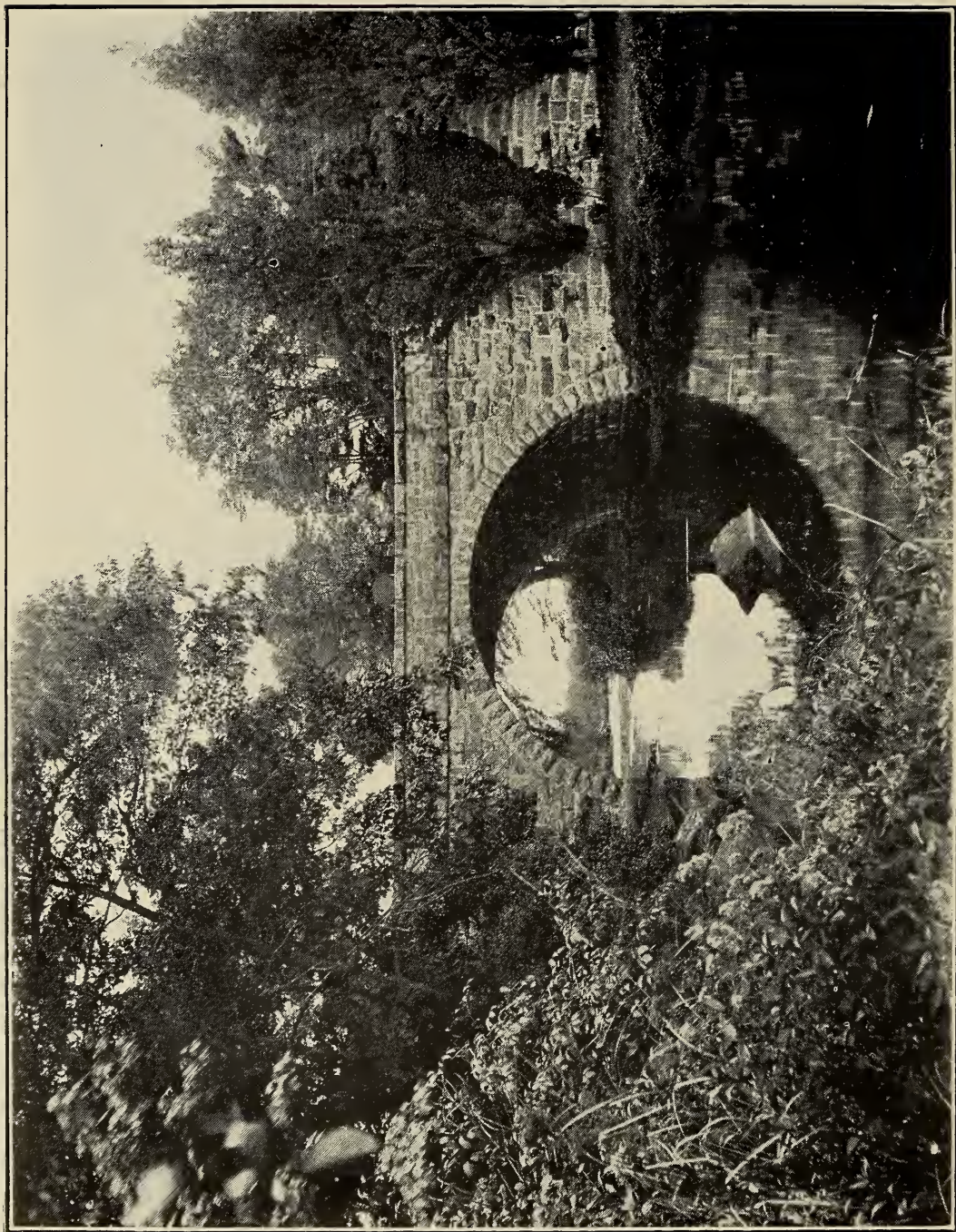
*In the list of soldiers and sailors given in **Old Scituâte** as having served in the Revolutionary War from Scituâte are thirty-two descendants of Josias Litchfield still bearing the name Litchfield. The Turners were second with twenty, while the descendants of Cornet Stetson still bearing the Stetson name were third, numbering eighteen.

To show the way in which cases were sometimes settled by the Court, we copy a verdict "appointed to be recorded" "That whereas the Court was pleased to appoint Robert Studson and Josias Winslow Sen'r, to have hearing of the difference betwixt Henry Hobson of Road Iland and Phillip Pointing (his servant) to heare both p'ties and to examine their testimonies and as they find the case to returne theire award." They reported as follows: "Now soe it is that after a great time spent in debateing the case between them we find" etc. Briefly, they found Phillip guilty on many counts. One of the many indictments was that Phillip being sent for a cask of "liquor" had drawn out and "desposed amongst his consorts" several quarts and filled the cask with water, "all of which the said Phillip odaceously deneyed." "Yet these things were soe cleare to us" that Mr. Timothy Halloway who had "moved in his behalfe" was very much ashamed that he had meddled with the case. (Col. Court Rec. Vol. III P. 182)

In 1670 Cornet Stetson and Thos. Huckins, deputy from Barnstable, were appointed to make sale of a tract lying at the Taunton River, which had been surrendered to the Colony by William Peabody. (Col. Court Rec. Vol. V P. 38).

In 1666 a tax was levied upon the town of Scituate, known as "special rates for Indian purchase of west end of towne" according to this list Cornet Stetson paid the largest tax. Walter Hatch was second. In 1669 the Cornet was the largest individual land holder in Scituate and the larger part of his holdings were in what afterwards became Hanover. In 1690 he gave to his son, Captain Benjamin, a beautiful tract of 60 acres, now in Hanover, which had been "James Bates allotment on the share line." This was owned by four successive generations of Benjamin Stetsons. The 4th Benjamin sold his birthright to his brother Job in 1759 and being a mariner (Probate Rec.) sailed away to parts unknown and we have no records of him or his descendants.

During Philips war the "Councell of Warr" was made up as follows. Governor Thomas Prentice, John Alden, Major Josias Winslow, Captain William Bradford, Thomas Hinckley, (later Governor), Capt. John Freeman, Nat'l. Bacon, Treasurer Constant Southworth, Capt. Matthew Fuller, Lt. Ephraim Morton, Ensign Marke Ames, Cornett Robert Studson, Mr. Josias Winslow sen'r., Mr. Nathaniel Morton (nephew of Gov. Bradford and Colony Secretary for forty years), Mr. James Walker, Mr.



NORTH RIVER BRIDGE, 1923
Where the "Country Road" crosses the River.

Thos. Huckins and Mr. Isaac Chittinden (three of the most influential deputies.)

Like everything that had to do with the Cornet, his very title seems to have been unique. We presume his commission as leader of a "squadron" of horsemen differed somewhat from that of a lieutenant, but have nowhere found on the records a special commission for a Cornet.

In "**Soldiers of King Philips War**" (Bodge) the author, gives much information from the Massachusetts archives concerning the troopers of the larger Colony. In many cases accounts of the adventures of the squads and even individual troopers are given. Mr. Bodge laments the fact that in the Plymouth Colony Records, these payrolls, lists, and general details have not yet been found.

He says, "The most thrifty and well-to-do in the Colonies were among the troopers, and the men of the greatest ability and influence were made their officers."

"This third branch of the service," ie. the Troopers, "were in many respects the most important branch of the Colony forces."

"Usually the horsemen were divided and attached to various companies, eight or ten to each company of foot, and their officers selected by the Court." (Soldiers in Philips War P. 468).

On the Mass. Records we read, "None shall be listed as troopers but such whom themselves or parents under whose government they are, who do not pay a single country rate for one hundred pounds estate." (Colonial Laws of Mass. 1663 P. 114).

The First Connecticut Cavalry organized at New Haven in 1658 was organized as a troop of horse of thirty seven members with three commissioned officers, ie. a Captain, A Lieutenant and a Cornet, each with a Corporal: that is, one commissioned officer and a Corporal to each squadron of ten troopers. It is safe to say that these military regulations for the Mass. and Connecticut colonies were practically the same in the Plymouth Colony.

In 1662 "Major Winslow, Captain Southworth and Captain Bradford with advice and councell of Lt. Torrey, Lt. Nash, Lt. White* and Cornett Studson" were appointed by the Court to draw up a form of commission for military offices "to be viewed by the Councill of Warr at the next generall training." Col. Ct. Rec. Vol. V P. 21)

*Peregrin White, the first white child born in New England.

These general trainings were held annually in October of each year, alternately at Plymouth, Yarmouth and Taunton, and all the military "both horse and foot" were ordered to appear. These annual trainings were occasions of great importance and not only the militia, but the populace for miles around took occasion to celebrate by "going to muster" a custom which has continued in the old colony even to within the memory of the writer. We may rest assured that the Cornet was there with his best horse and uniform, his carbine and pistols polished for the occasion; and why not? He was Cornet of the only troopers in the colony, also one of the special committee of the "Councell of Warr" and popular at headquarters; of all this we are certain. The Cornet was only human and would not lose an opportunity to appear in the coveted position of a Cavalry officer on holiday parade.

During the period in which Cornet Stetson was active in the affairs of the Government, nearly all who participated were connected by family ties, and each member owed his preferment in some measure to family connection and influence. If we stop to think of it Major Josias Winslow was the son of Gov. Edward, and Major Bradford was son of Governor Bradford, Captain Thomas, and Treasurer Constant Southworth were the sons of "Mistress Allice Bradford" the Governor's wife, Captain Benjamin Church was the son-in-law of Treasurer Constant Southworth and the Colonial Secretary Nathaniel Morton was a nephew of Gov. Bradford, Gov. Prentice's wife was daughter of Elder Brewster, and Major Freeman, formerly of the Troopers, was Gov. Prentice's son-in-law, but unless Honor was of "royal blood" we know of nothing except character, ability (and quite possibly his personality) that contributed to the Cornet's preferment for a place in the government.

The Cornet spent a considerable portion of his time in Plymouth and must have been a frequent visitor at the home of Governor Winslow at Marshfield, and Constant Southworth at Duxbury.*

We have sometimes wondered who entertained the Cornet and his fellow deputies when they met at Plymouth. Did they tarry at the "ordinary"? Where was this inn or village tavern? Occasionally we find provision made for the "Magistrates table" for instance in 1657 "Mistris Bradford" was paid by the treasurer for entertaining "the Governor and magistrates for the

*Although living many miles from the home of Treasurer Southworth we notice that Cornet Robert Studson was the first mentioned of those, who after Mr. Southworth's death, were chosen by Mistriss Southworth to make the inventory of his estate. See "inventory of estate exhibited by Mistriss Alice Southworth at Plymouth June 1679."

ensueing year.” (Col. Court Rec. Vol. III P. 120) And in June 1663 it was “ordered that the treasurer bee requested to provide for the majestrates table as formerly” (Col. Court Rec. Vol. IV P. 44). In 1678 “Mr. Joseph Bradford and Mistris Jael his wife” were permitted “to draw and sell beer as occasion may require soe as they prudently prevent all excesse that may come thereby.” Did they keep the ordinary?

A good idea of the duties of a “Cornet of horse” of those days may be obtained from the following court orders of 1667.

“The Councell of Warr have determined that during any appearance of danger The Troop in each towne be ordered by their owne officers or where such are not, by such as are of the grand councell of that towne,* to be redy att all times to goe forth as scouts: upon discovery to carry intelligence from place to place, as there may be occasion, and to do such service further as need may require that in time of danger the troopers of Plymouth repaire to the governor as his guard until further notice.” (Col. Court Rec. P. 144-145). It was, then, their duty to be in constant touch with each other, to keep their leaders and the towns informed of any signs of hostility or movements of the enemy. They must be good horsemen, well mounted, alert and of good judgment, mentally and physically fitted for the position.

General James Cudworth of Scituate was one of the ablest and most beloved men in the colony; nevertheless, for the stand he took against the rigid laws enacted against the Quakers, he was for twelve years or more during Gov. Prence’s administration banished to his farm in Scituate. Mr. Deane writes “In all the passages of this admirable man he never manifested his magnanimity more signally than by his dignified silence and quiet demeanor under these persecutions. He remained at home prosecuting his agricultural pursuits and employed in the municipal concerns of Scituate without railing at the government.” Drake, the historian, says, “The fame of Cudworth was obscured and overwhelmed by his enterprising and successful subordinate Captain Benjamin Church” but he adds “The moral character of General Cudworth defies all rivaling; it stands out in bold relief beaming with light amidst the darkness of the age.”

General Cudworth and Cornet Stetson were intimate friends and associates during their whole lives and were frequently sent on important missions by the colony or worked together in the interests of the town of Scituate.

*Cornet Stetson was one of the grand council of Scituate during Philip’s War. (Court orders Vol. 5 P. 186).



—Kodak Enlargement, N. M. Stetson

A FRESHET ON THE SECOND HERRING BROOK

View near the ancient home of John Bryant 1st.

When the youthful Robert Stetson, Jr., so far overstepped the bounds of propriety as to come within the clutches of the law, it was Captain Cudworth who came to the rescue and went bondsman for him, and the Court ordered that "they doe stand bound unto our sov'n lord and kinge jointly and severally in the penal sune of thirty pounds" and of course the Cornet eventually came forward and provided the funds for Robert's release.

In 1653 Cornet Stetson served his first term as deputy from Scituate to the Colony Court, with Captain Cudworth. They were re-elected in 1654 and 1655 but in 1659 when Scituate sent them for the fourth time Captain Cudworth was rejected by the Court for his leniency toward the Quakers, or perhaps more particularly because of public utterances and letters in their behalf, and the Cornet served alone. Lieut. Torrey was later chosen to fill Capt. Cudworth's place. Capt. Cudworth had also been Captain of the Scituate Militia, one of the magistrates and in 1657 Commissioner of the United Colonies, but as he would not set his name to the severe laws against the Quakers his commission was taken from him and he was not allowed to sit as a magistrate or hold any office in the government. After a time however it seems he was allowed to serve on committees and in 1671 "Capt. Cudworth, Cornet Studson, Isaac Chittenden and Lieut. Bucke" were chosen by the Court to meet with a committee chosen by the town, to settle the method of dividing the common lands of Scituate, (Col. Court Rec. Vol. V P. 70) and the following year the "Court then empowered" this same committee "to lay out lands att Scittuate unto all those who had an ancient graunt of land from the freemen" also to lay out "with all convenient speed" special lands granted to Mr. Witherell and Mr. Baker, ministers of the First and Second Churches. (Col. Court Rec. Vol. V P. 103).

In July 1672 "This Court doth appoint the Treasurer (Constant Southworth) Captain Cudworth and Cornett Studson to repaire to Barnstable" to settle a dispute between Captain Fuller and his father, Samuel Fuller, senior, and the town of Sandwich. (Col. Court Rec. Vol. V P. 96). As we look over the records of these three, we can not conceive of a more honorable trio of judges; doubtless the court was of the same opinion. We can almost see these three elderly horsemen all above sixty years of age "repairing" to Barnstable over the sandy paths of Sandwich that July day, two hundred and fifty years ago to listen to the grievance of Captain Matthew Fuller against the town of Sandwich. Captain Fuller was an influential man in the colony. He had been a lieutenant under Myles Standish and was later "Surgean Generall" of the Colony forces in the Dutch war. We are told later that they decided in favor of Captain

Fuller and the town of Barnstable, against the town of Sandwich.

On June 3, 1673 Major Josias Winslow was chosen Governor of Plymouth Colony and Captain Cudworth was restored to his place in the government. We can judge of the government's estimate of Captain Cudworth's character and ability from the fact that he was later selected to fill Governor Winslow's place as Major and still later unanimously "chosen and reestablished in the office of a generall or commanderin chieffe to take the charge of our forces that are or may bee sent forth in the behalfe of the colonie against the enemie as occasion may require." (Col. Court Rec. Vol. V P. 175) In 1674 he again took his seat as one of the magistrates and served as deputy governor under Gov. Hinckley. After the war was over he was sent to London to obtain a new charter for the colony, but died of small pox soon after his arrival without having accomplished his purpose.

In December 1675 the commissioners of the United Colonies upon learning that the forces of Philip and the Narragansetts had united, ordered "Vigorous procecution of the Warr" and that "one thousand men more be raised forthwith." (Col. Court Rec. Vol. V P. 184-185) Later "the councell of Warr now assembled doe order that the Namasacheesett Indians be spedily removed to Clarke's Iland and ther to remaine and not to departe from thense without lycense from the authoritee upon paine of death." Col. Court Rec. Vol. V P. 187).

Dec. 6, 1675 "The Councell of Warr" "ordered and appointed Major Cudworth, Cornett Studson and Isaac Chettenden, Presse Masters for the pressing of able and fitt men of Scittuate to goe forth on the present expedition against the Indians." (Col. Court Rec. Vol. V P. 83).

To raise money to pay the soldiers who "went forth" on the first expedition against the Indians, certain lands valued at 1000 pounds, belonging to the countrey at Shawamet, Assonettnecke (Freetown) Assowamsett and Sepecan were appropriated to be sold and the matter was placed in the hands of "the Treasurer, Major Cudworth and Cornett Studson" also James Walker who lived in the vicinity of these lands, he being deputy from Taunton (Col. Court Rec. Vol. V P. 191).

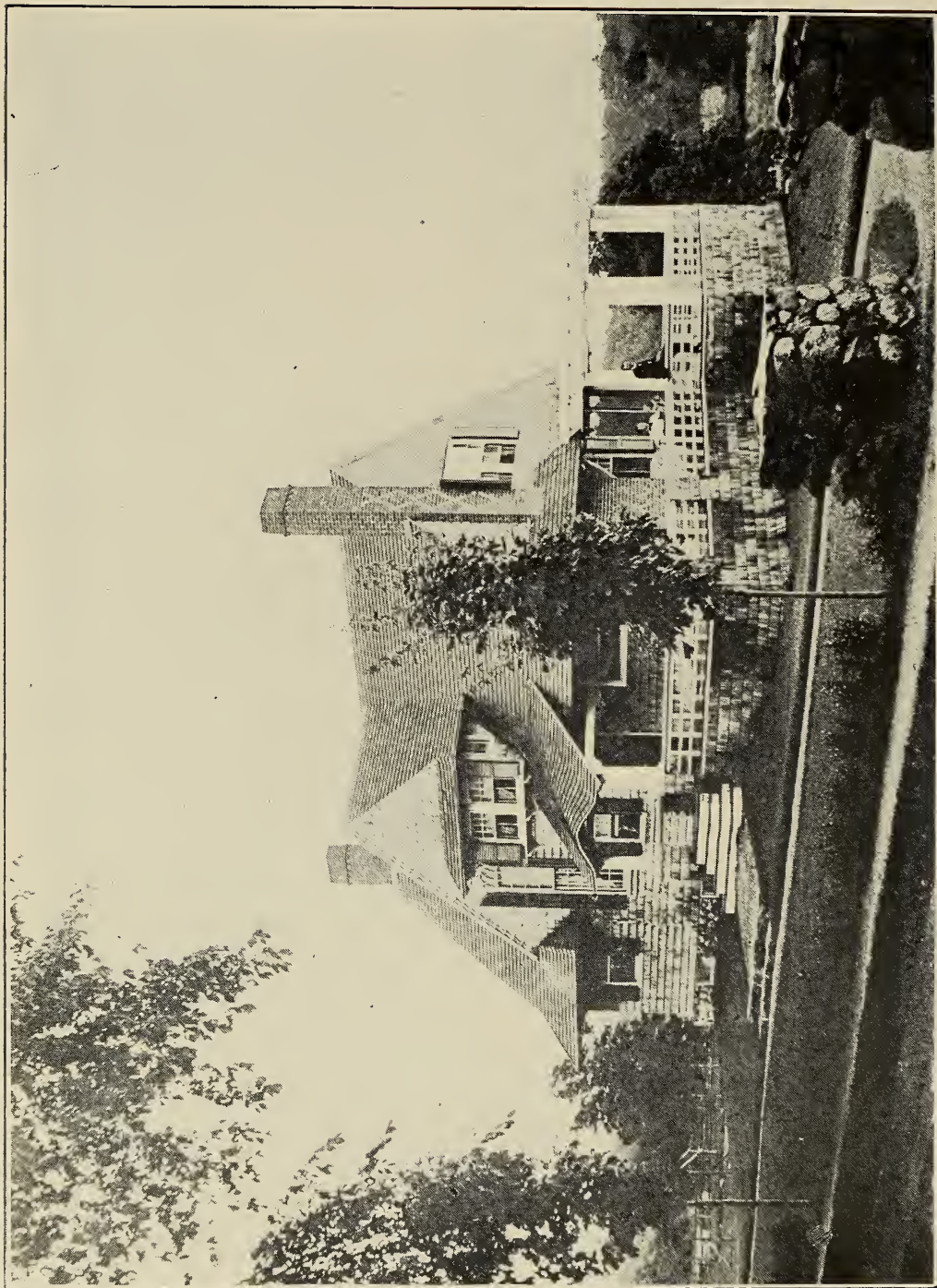
"To pay the souldiers whose needy condition may call for other supplys more suitable for their families than lands" it was further ordered that one thousand pounds be assessed upon the various towns according to their size and ability. Scituate, notwithstanding the fact that Rev. Lothrop with more than half of his congregation had removed to Barnstable in 1639 continued to take the lead, becoming the wealthiest and most populous town in the colony, and while Plymouth's portion of the amount was only 99 pounds Scituate was assessed 165 pounds.

The following March "The Councill of Warr ordered in reference to a p'sent exegencye and straite that is on us by reason of the neare approach of our enemies whoe have fiered the greatest p'te of one of our fronteer townes (Rehoboth) and expecting that they may p'sist on in their hostilitie three hundred soldiers well fitted to go forth" were "raised and pressed" to march on the 11th of April. Scituate furnished for this expedition fifty men while no other town in the Colony furnished above thirty. (Col. Court Rec. Vol. V P. 193).

Early in 1775 the Court appointed men from each town to be of the "Towne Councill". The men chosen from Scituate were "Cornett Robert Studson, Isacke Chettenden and Edward Jenkins"* (Court orders Vol. V P.186). Their position was one of great responsibility. They were vested with much power, and the Court was very explicit in stating their duties. **"The said Towne Councill together with the commission officers shall have power to order the watchings and wardings and garrisons of their respective townes and the setting forth of scouters for the safety of the townes to take care that the townes stocke of ammunitions may be supplied. They shall have power to call the towne together . . . and whosoever shall neglect or refuse to watch and ward being required and ordered soe to doe shall forfeite five shillings for every dfault to be leivied by distresse in his estate if he have any to answare it; and if no estate then to be sett necke and heels by order of the commission officers not exceeding half an hour for every neglect of p'formance of their duty in watching and warding"** etc.

On the twenty-ninth of February "the Councill of Warr" had "judged it very necessary and likely to be beneficial both in respect to the town of Scittuate and the countrey that **a garrison be erected and kept at the house of Joseph Bearstow and for the further ordering therof refered unto the commission offices and towne councill of Scittuate.**" As the Cornet was the only "commission officer" or member of the "Towne Counsell," (to whom the building of the garrison house had been entrusted) who lived in this part of Scituate we naturally suppose it was built under his direction. Moreover, it was not far from his home, and as the Cornet was in his sixty-fourth year we can more easily imagine him during the Indian raids on

*Isaac Chittenden and Edward Jenkins lived near "The Harbor," a distance of perhaps seven miles from the home of the Cornet, which was in the midst of the scattered settlement at the south end, now comprising Norwell, Hanover and the "two mile". He was really a frontiersman of Scituate during "Philip's War" and as one of the "Grande Councill" must have generally acted independant of his colleagues at the Harbor.



RESIDENCE OF DANIEL A. SHERMAN, HANOVER 4 CORNERS

On the site of "The Garrison House at Joseph Berstows" in Philips War, 1676. The house rests on a portion of the original foundation, and the ancient well is still in use.

Scituate, near the garrison, protecting his home and mill, than on the offensive at Mount Hope.

Mr. Deane says without qualification that at the time of the raid Cornet Stetson came down the river with what people he could raise in the south part of the town (Deane's History of Scituate P. 127). We suppose this must have included at least a portion of the garrison at Joseph Barstow's. Joseph Barstow's house stood near the place now known as Hanover 4 Corners, on a tract of land that had been given him by his father William, who described it in 1666 as "the land on which said oldest son Joseph Bearstow has already built a dwelling house", **being a part of the land which I lately purchased of Robert Studscn.**" (Plym. Deeds Vol. III Pt. 1 P. 115). Whether this land was originally granted to the Cornet or obtained by purchase we have not discovered, but it would appear that **Cornet Stetson sold William Barstow, the first settler in what is now the town of Hanover, the land on which he built the first dwelling house.**

Joseph Barstow's lot contained many acres and was bounded in a general way by the "3d Herring Brook" "the furthestmost part of muddy flats in the beds of the river," "the common lands", beyond the "Countrey Road," and on the north by the land of his father beyond the "Towne Way." The southwest corner was above "Barstow's Bridge" over the river and the opposite corner near "Palmer's Log Bridge" over the 3d Herring Brook" while the house was near the cross roads where the "Towne Way" crosses the "Countrey Road" ("the 4 Corners").*

Mr. Deane spent many years preparing his **History of Scituate** (published in 1831) and no one at this time can be expected to add much to the account he has given us of Scituate during the Indian Wars.

On April 21, 1676 Scituate was attacked by a large body of Indians coming by the way of Weymouth. They were, however, bravely repulsed by the inhabitants. (Drake's Indian Wars). No names are given of those who participated in the fight, probably

*Later, before Philip's war", Joseph Berstow deeded to "Moses Symons" who had married his sister Patience "Lands near unto ye Countrey road bridge commonly called by ye name of Berstow's Bridge . . . 30 acres of upland and 2 acres of meadow by est. . . . bounded south by North River. East by ye Third Herring brook. North by lands of Joseph Berstow to ye most Northerly Run out of ye Bear Swamp and from ye wood to a little run that issueth out of a little swamp, and toward ye west it is bounded by ye commons." (Plym. Deeds 1669). Evidently the south end of the land his father William had given him. The "land formerly purchased of Robert Studson," Years afterwards it became the property of Joseph Stockbridge and h's descendants, and is now covered by the Sylvester Estates.

none are known. As to how our Cornet carried himself on this occasion we can have no knowledge, but trust he was as usual, at his post.

Mr. Deane has told us some things in a general way about Cornet Stetson but no historian could be expected to follow minutely the adventures of a single character. At this time, 1676, the "Cornet's Mill" so called, on the 3d Herring Brook had as we have already shown, passed out of his hands, was in fact in a state of decay, (Scituate Rec.) and the then real Cornet's Mill was a much more extensive establishment at Nanumackeuitt (Drinkwater). When Mr. Deane wrote his history of Scituate in 1831 he had, it seems, no knowledge whatever of this mill, notwithstanding the fact that the record of the Cornet's suit in 1673, (wherin Thomas Joy claimed to have bought of Chickatabutte the land on which **"the sawmill of Cornett Robert Studson standeth"** and also the record of the sale by **"Robert Studson"** of **"his sawmill" in 1681,**) had already reposed for one hundred and fifty years in the archives at Plymouth, and there was already a centurys' growth of "forest and fern" over the ruins of the old Drinkwater Mill.

On the 20th of May 1676, the time of the second and most disastrous attack on Scituate, a large party of Narragansett Indians entered Scituate, coming by the way of Hingham, where they burned several houses. After burning the first "Cornet's Mill" on the 3d Herring Brook and among others, the house of Joseph Sylvester* they proceeded to the larger settlement near Stockbridges Mill, where was the principal garrison. They thus avoided the garrison at Joseph Barstow's. After an unsuccessful attempt on the block house which stood on the bank of the river, they attacked the garrison house by the mill and here most of the fighting took place. Captain Michael Pierce of Scituate with his company of fifty men, eighteen of whom were from Scituate, had only recently been annihilated at Pawtucket, and Captain John Williams with thirty Scituate men, was absent ranging the woods about Namaskett (Middleboro). Mr. Deane informs us that Lieut. Isaac Buck appeared with reinforcements from the North, while Cornet Stetson hastened down the river with what men he could gather in the south part of the town, but not until evening when all the available men in the town took part, were the Indians routed. In this raid on Scit-

*Valued at 100 pounds, by far the most valuable house burned in the raids. (See Winslow Papers, Deane, P. 401).

uate twelve houses were burned, (Winslow papers) and during the year, 32 heads of families slain, exclusive of the Narragansett expedition of the previous year. (Deane)

At this time Cornet Stetson was in his sixty-fourth year, and we may suppose the duties of a Cornet of horse in Indian warfare to have been reasonably strenuous; even in Colonial days sixty years was the age limit, beyond which no one was required to bear arms. (Col. Court Rec. Vol. IV P. 145). Maj. Cudworth, Captain Southworth as well as the Cornet were however, all above sixty.

We find the name of Robert Stetson mentioned several hundred times on the Colony Records as **"Cornett Studson."** So far as we can discover he was the only Cornet ever commissioned in Plymouth Colony or even mentioned on the Colony Records.

At the meeting of the June Court (1775) the Troopers had been ordered to procure carbines and serve as a company of "Dragoones". This the troopers resented and almost unanimously refused to obey. The Court promptly ordered the troopers (as a company?) disbanded. (Col. Ct. Rec. June 1775) That any tribunal at the prospect of a bloody warfare with savages should deliberately disband their trained company of fifty selected horsemen seems unthinkable. The natural conclusion must be that many of the Troopers became officers in the regular troops or attached to the different companies, continued as scouts, to render the most valuable service to the colony. Capt. Bradford and Lieut. Freeman we know were made Majors, the ranking officers in the Colony forces, under Gen. Cudworth, and although we can not doubt that the Cornet's chief function at this time as one of the "grand councill" member of the "Council of Warr" and "Presse Master" with Gen. Cudworth was that of counselor: still for forty years he had reigned supreme, the unchallenged leader in the little community surrounding his home, ie., the territory north of the 2nd Herring Brook, embracing the "two mile" and the settlement beyond the 3d Herring Brook (Hanover). Fourteen times already they had sent him their deputy to the Colony Government and annually the Court had chosen him for the Council of War. For seventeen years, as Cornet of the Troopers, he had been their military leader and now their member of the Grand Council. We feel sure that notwithstanding his age he was still the beloved leader of his little band of troopers. We fail to discover that previous to the close of Philips War any of these positions had been filled even for a



SITE OF CORNET'S MILL ON THIRD HERRING BROOK, 1656

Burned by the Indians May 20th, 1676. Here in the midst of an almost impenetrable thicket it remains just as the Indians left it 250 years ago.

single term by any one south of the 2nd Herring Brook save Robert Stetson.

It is probable that the order to disband proved inexpedient and was never executed, for the "dragoons" were never organized and at the adjourned court held November 1677, laws were made governing certain emergencies as follows: "The Commission officer chosen Commander in Cheiffe" in such emergencies **"is heerby Impowered to acte with the advice of his councell, the Commanders of the severall squadrons and such other discreet men of his campanie as hee shall see cause to advise with in surprisall, repelling, p'sueing or distruction of the enimie as occation and opportunitie may present."** (**Laws of Colony of New Plymouth.**) Published by order of Mass. Legislature 1836. P. 181.)

This being after the Troop had been cashiered for insubordination (?) shows that the squadrons still existed and took a most important part in the protection of the towns.

In whatever capacity the Cornet may have served in Philip's War his rank was always that of Cornet. Near the close of the war it was enacted by the Court that none who had served "under commission" against the natives should again "serve in any lower capacitie than Commission officer." (**Laws of the Colony of New Plymouth, P. 183.**)

Only the leading facts regarding the Indian raids on Scituate are known; all details are wanting, but we can imagine what it meant to the scattering families in the region of the Third Herring Brook to have a band of blood thirsty savages descend without warning into their midst. We can well believe it a determined little band that rallied about the Cornet and followed the savages down the river to the Block House.

It would seem that Cornet Stetson also acted as Commissary (?) during Philips War. We present a page from the Scituate Records of that date in which the Cornet renders to the town treasurer his account of the sums he paid out for provisions, ammunition, clothing, wages and expense of journeys made by himself and troopers to Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay. See next page.

Coronet Robert Stottun being agent
for the Deane's Purchase of the Land 0 6 12 04
to find Clothing for Soldiers

Coronet Stottun accounts concerning his
providing for soldiers is as follows

to Governor's wine store	0 12	18 00
to Mr Henry Deane	0 12	05 00
to the Druggist	0 08	00 00
for twenty yards of Rells and a half	0 03	01 06
for Driveton snagsacks	0 01	12 06
for fourteen snagsacks	0 00	15 00
for Cote Buttons	0 00	08 06
for wastcoat Buttons	0 00	08 00
for 4 pound and a quarter of Driveton	0 00	09 00
for flints	0 00	04 00
for 10 pound Horns and a belt	0 00	02 00
for hair cloth	0 00	15 00
for Expresses to Farnes to Boston	0 00	17 00
paid to Major Cadnor	0 01	11 02
more to Major Cadnor	0 01	00 00
paid to Elder Gurnes for stockings	0 01	07 06
paid to Joseph Silverster	0 00	14 08
for provision for soldiers	0 00	11 00
for making soldiers' Cloaths	0 00	17 02
for shoes for soldiers	0 04	10 00
to John Withers for mending arms	0 00	01 02
for to Mier to Boston	0 00	14 00
paid to Jack Buck senior	0 00	13 03
to John Stottun for making soldiers' Cloaths	0 00	16 06
to Ben. Stottun for going to Boston	0 00	6 00
to John Darnley Taylor	0 00	08 06
for forking stockings	0 00	03 00
for forking powder from the Hyems	0 00	05 00
to John Silverster for going to Boston	0 00	06 00
to Richard Dooly for going to Boston	0 00	06 00
to Messrs Symons for going to Boston	0 00	06 00
paid to James Davis	0 00	04 00
to James Davis for shoes	0 01	00 00
paid to Major Cadnor	0 00	01 03
paid to Mr Allen	0 00	06 08
paid to John Withers	0 00	04 06
paid to Jack Dittenden	0 00	11 03
to Major Cadnor	0 00	08 00
for time spent	0 00	00 00
for 10 stockings for John	0 00	03 00
to Mr John Allen	0 00	00 00

PAGE FROM SCITUATE RECORDS OF 1676

Showing that the Cornet acted as Commissary in Philip's War.
(See opposite page)

Cornet Robard Stetsun being agent for the Towne, Received of the Towne to p'vide clothing for souldgers	}	(£)	(S)	(d)
		060	12	04

Cornet Stetsuns account consarning his
providing for souldgers is as folloeth:

To Govenor Winslow	012	18	00
To Mr. Henery Sargent	012	05	00
To the Tressurer	008	00	00
for twenty yards of Rolle and a half	003	01	06
for threeten snap sacks	001	12	06
for fourteen snap sacks	001	15	00
for Cote Buttons	000	08	06
for was coat Buttens	000	08	00
for to pound and a quarter of threed	000	09	00
for flints	000	04	00
for to powder hornes and belts	000	02	00
for manchester	000	15	00
for expenses to Jornies to Boston	000	19	00
paid to Major Cudworth	001	11	02
More to Major Cudwoorth	001	00	00
paid to Elder prince for stockings	001	07	06
paid Joseph Silvester	000	14	08
for provission for souldgers	000	11	00
for making souldgers cloaths	000	19	02
for shoes for souldgers	004	10	00
to John Witherlee for mending armes	000	01	02
for to vioges to boston	000	14	00
paid to Isack Buck senior	000	13	03
To John Stetsun for making souldgers cloths	000	16	06
To Ben Stetsun for going to boston	000	06	00
To John Turner Taylor	000	15	06
for fething stockings	000	03	00
for fething powder from Plymoth	000	05	00
to Joseph Silverster for going to boston	000	06	00
To Richard Dwelly for going to boston	000	06	00
To Mosses Symons for going to boston	000	06	00
paid to James Davis	000	04	00
To James Davise for shoes	001	00	00
paid to Major Cudworth	001	01	03
paid to Mr. Alin	000	06	08
paid to John Witherlee	000	05	04
paid to Isack Chittenden	000	04	06
To Major Cudorth	000	11	03
for time spent	000	08	00
to six shillings forgotten	000	06	00
to Ensigne John Alin	000	03	06

"Ben Stetsun" "Joseph Sylvester" "Mosses Symons" and "Richard Dwelly" who each made a trip to "boston" were probably troopers, as mounted messengers to Boston at this time would naturally be selected from the troopers. As to the "to (two) vioges to boston" "Expenses to jornies to boston" and "for feching powder from Plymoth" these trips were evidently made by the Cornet.

Of those mentioned Capt. Joseph Sylvester and Ensign John Stetson later lost their lives in the Canada Expedition, but "Ben Stetsun" returned and became captain of the Scituate company raised in the territory now known as Norwell and Hanover. Richard Dwelley was allowed for his services the unusual sum of eleven pounds in land which he selected on the west side of the 3d Herring Brook (now Hanover) near Cornet's Mill. Isaac Bucke Senior, the town clerk of Scituate, became "Lieutenant Bucke" and with Cornet Stetson repulsed the Indians at the block house a few weeks later.

"Mosses Symons" whose home was at North River Bridge died this same year (Prob. Records) probably in service.

"Ensign John Alin" kept one of the lower garrisons, while Isaac Chittenden, one of the town council, lost his life at the same time while defending his home from the Indians. We believe nearly all of these leaders were of the Troopers and had served their apprenticeship in the troop of horse.

We suspect the Cornet of having been a trifle clumsy with figures,— that he carried these forty items all in his head, and are not at all surprised that he forgot to remember just what became of the extra "six shillings forgotten."

Rev. Samuel Deane, the historian of Scituate, was ordained over the Second Church of Scituate more than an hundred years ago. He was a conscientious student of local history, and at a time when tradition was of much value he wrote, "During Philips War the veteran Cornet Stetson was constantly on horseback, either in making voluntary expeditions with General Cudworth as tradition asserts, or in returning to encourage the garrisons at home or in guiding the directions of the council of war." These traditions seem to be bourn out by the town and Colony records.

Gen. Cudworth of Scituate was now "Commander in cheiffe of all the colonie forces." The Court had given a standing order that "the troopers of Plymouth in time of danger repaire to the governor (Winslow) as his body guard". Did the Cornet in a similar way act as "aide" and his "squadron" of troopers as

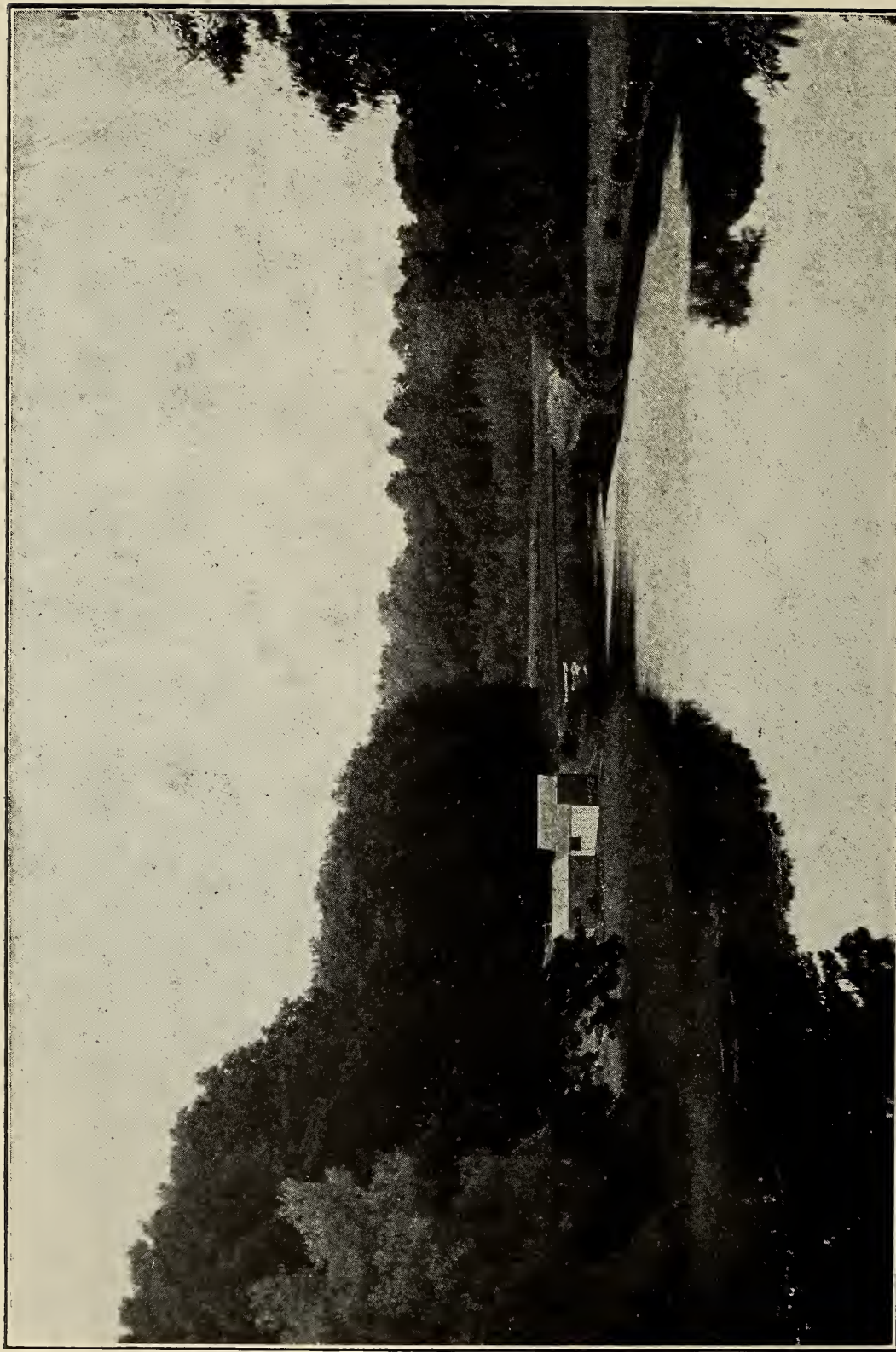
scouts and messengers to General Cudworth of Scituate?

It has been said "History is only fable agreed upon." At any rate we have endeavored in these pages to give only substantiated facts, culled from the records, omitting most of the legends and traditions that would naturally be told of such an original and unique character as Cornet Stetson. What we have related of the Cornet is drawn from the authentic records of town and colony, and it is the purpose of the writer to present the true story that our hero may occupy the place in Colonial history to which he is entitled. We will mention a few more of the references to him on the records to show the variety of his public activities.

The Cornet was in every sense a pioneer, and must have lived for several years after his settlement, without neighbors. It was fifteen years later when William Barstow, generally believed to have been the first settler in Hanover, crossed the third Herring Brook and settled on land purchased of Cornet Stetson near the present site of Hanover 4 Corners. As before mentioned the Cornet sold in 1651 to Sgt. Humphrey Johnson a tract immediately north of his farm, describing it as **"My Dwelling House and Cow House together with a Sertaine p'cell of upland . . . 200 acres . . . being a part of the grate lotts that were given by the freemen to Samuel House and Mr. Lothrop."** Mr. Hatherly witnessed the deed and "Honor, wife of Cornet Studson" relinquished her right of dower.

This was the house of William Richards from 1639 to 1650 according to Mr. Deane, who further states on what seems to be excellent authority, that Rev. John Lothrop "the first regularly settled minister of Scituate" with about thirty of his people arrived in Scituate on the ship Griffin in 1634, and that Samuel House was one of this company. **As Robert Stetson, aged about twenty-one years arrived this same year, and received, as it seems from the above, a grant adjoining that of Mr. Lothrop and Samuel House, it would seem a reasonable conjecture that he also was a member of Mr. Lothrop's company.**

Robert Stetson was the only pioneer of New England bearing the name Stetson who left male offspring. There were, however, among the early pioneers, contemporary with the Cornet, two others bearing the name, ie., Deacon William of Charlestown, 1632 and Vincent of Millford. Of Vincent we have few notes. He was of Millford in 1646 and in Marblehead in 1674. He returned to Millford (Savage's Genealogical Dictionary). He left at least one daughter who married George Barlow, and whose posterity is scattered far and wide.



—Photograph by Herman Sturtevant

THE RIVER NEAR MOUTH OF 3D HERRING BROOK

(The brook showing indistinctly in the background.)

Barstow shipyards on left; ancient Palmer estates in distance; all part of Cornet Stetson's early possessions.

From "**Charlestown Genealogies and Estates**" we glean that Deacon William Stetson, or "Will Stitson" as he is sometimes called on the records, was an inhabitant in 1632, was admitted to the church with wife Elizabeth in 1633, was deacon of the 1st Church of Charlestown for over 31 years (Gravestone Record) married for 2nd wife widow Mary (Norton) Hill Aug. 22, 1670. He died April 11, 1691. As a young man he kept the ferry. He became wealthy and possessed large estates. In **Pope's Pioneers** we are told he came via Boston, had no children of his own, and in his will probated in 1692 bequeathed his property to the eight children of his first and second wife "and to Sarah Johnson who now dwells with me." "Negro Sambo shall have his freedom." He had accounts with people of Bristol, Eng. It is elsewhere stated that Deacon William Stetson was several times chosen Representative to the General Court, that he together with Major Sedgwick (leader of the Colony forces in the Dutch War) built the first mills in Charlestown, and was one of the trustees named in the marriage settlement of Martha Coytmore when she married Governor Winthrop. Although these two, Deacon William of Massachusetts and Cornet Robert of Plymouth Colony resembled each other in many ways, we have discovered no other evidence of relationship.

To raise funds to help pay the debts incurred by the war, the Court decided to sell more of the "conquered lands" at Mount Hope, the home of King Philip, and in 1677 chose Cornet Stetson and Mr. Nathaniel Thomas "to joyne with and assist The Treasurer to sell the countrey's lands at Shoamet and Assonett" and appropriate the proceeds "to the satisfaction of those to whom the Countrey is indebted." (Col. Court Rec. Vol. V P. 240).

The same year the "Cape fishery" was let for a term of seven years for the sum of 30 pounds a year "Cornet Studson and Mr. Nathaniel Thomas to make leasses to the p'tners and annually on the first of May receive the money for it." (Col. Court Rec. Vol. V P. 244). So it appears the Cornet was a pioneer "Fish Commissioner."

After the close of the war Major Cudworth, Cornet Stetson and Edward Jenkins were appointed by the Court to distribute Scituate's portion of the money "given by divers Christians in Ireland for the releiffe of such as are impoverished distressed and in nessesitie by the late Indian Warr." (Col. Court Rec. Vol. V P.-222)

At a Towne Meeting the 24 of November 1667

overall John Giffon John Bryant & Edward Arkin-
son of Haverhill imaged to sell to the Towne to
sell to the Towne in the Towne for Towne purposes for five
years and the Towne did agree to give them two pounds of
pounders a year for five years to every one of them

The Towne did agree to give Thomas Hillam and his wife
and his wife's land for half of the Towne in the Towne of thirty
shillings but should have had of the Country

The Towne appointed Cornst. Stilson to give the pounders
a pound for the five years and promised to pay him in
substant of barley when they make the Rattles yearly

Isaac Chittenden was one of Scituates most valuable citizens serving them on the "Towne" or "Grande Councell" in Phillip's War, and as deputy to Court for a long period, many years together with Cornet Stetson. He was killed during the raid and the Court requested Major Cudworth and Cornet Stetson "to be healpful to his family in settling his estate."

Our last visit to the Scituate Records resulted in the discovery of the items on the opposite page. These throw some light on the personnel of "The Troop" in 1667 and bear us out in our assumption that "The Troopers" were leading men in the towns.

Att a Towne Meeting th 24 of ffebruary 1667

Corporall John Sutton, John Bryant Ser., Edward Jenkins and Steven Vinall, ingaged them Selves to the Towne to List them Selves in the Troope for Towne Troopers for five Yeares and the Towne Did agree to give them two pound of powder a yeare for five yeares to every one of them.

The Towne Did agree to give Thomas Hilland Jur. the piternells and Hollsters that hee had of the Towne in the leue of thirty Shillings hee shold have had of the Country.

The Towne appoynted Cornett Stetsun to p'vide the powder a bove said for the Troopers, and promised to pay him in Wheat & Barly when wee make the Rattes yearly.

"Corprall John Sutton" who it seems was Corporal of the Troopers, later fought Philip as Ensign of Capt. Williams' company. "John Bryant Sr." served several years as Deputy to Court—the town's highest official. "Edward Jenkins" who had also served a year as Deputy, was one of the Council of War and during Philip's War, one of the Grand Council of Scituate with Cornet Stetson and Isaac Chittenden: while "Steven Vinall" one of the Conihassett partners (in right of his mother) was clerk of that company. From the next item it seems probable that "Thomas Hilland Jur." from the Fourth Cliff near the mouth of the river, had also been a trooper, for the "piternells" and "Hollsters" (pistols and saddle cases) were a part of the trooper's outfit. See opposite page.

On June 7, 1677, Treasurer Constant Southworth and Cornet Stetson with several others were appointed by the Court

“to heare the just Complaints and demands of such p’sons to whom the Collonie is in any way indebted relating to the late war with the Indians..” (Col. Court Rec. Vol. V P. 234)

We have followed the doughty Cornet in his many adventures. We know what he was like. To make the story complete we should have his portrait, but alas, we have no likeness; and for his stature, complexion, carriage or expression, can only draw on the imagination. The general “make up” of his two illustrious companions in arms, Major Josias Winslow and Captain Myles Standish* seems to be fairly well established. Certainly we should be justified in assuming that he resembled these worthy contemporaries, at least in so far as regards the cut of his clothes and the trim of his whiskers.

Behold him then, with pointed beard and fierce mustaches, astride his powerful horse, as he bade Honor goodbye one of those October mornings, and “went forth” to the training. We see him clad in his “pilgrim’s cloak” and breeches of homespun, pointed hat (?) and “troopers boots”, and—like the bold buccaneers of old—with two huge pistols at his belt, as we follow him down the lane to join his squadron at the cross roads.

Our picture can not be very far wrong. The uniform and favorite horse are not unlikely, and the “Troopers saddle” “pettinals” and “hollsters” matter of history.

In 1847 Rev. John Stetson Barry published a **Genealogical Record of the Stetson Family**. A revised edition of this work is now in preparation, hence any genealogical account of the family is unnecessary.

Cornet Stetson was born in 1613. Married Honor ——? and his nine children were Joseph, b. June 1639; Benjamin, b. Aug. 1641; Thomas, b. Dec. 11, 1643; Samuel, b. June 1646; John, b. April 1648; Eunice, b. Apr. 28, 1650; Lois, b. Feb. 1652; Robert, b. Jan. 29, 1653; Timothy, b. 1657. Nothing more is known of Lois and Timothy and as they are not mentioned in their father’s will it seems probable they died early.

During Philip’s War these six sons of the Cornet were in the flower of early manhood: their father and General Cudworth had been appointed by the Court, Press Masters. (Col. Court Rec. Vol. V P. 183) whose duty it was to “presse” into the service every able bodied male. What more natural and probable than that Capt. Ben., Ensign John., Sgt. Samuel and all

*Captain Standish died in 1656, the year in which the Cornet received his first grants at Drinkwater, and two years before he received his commission as Cornet of the Troopers.

the others were in the war and some of them at least among the Troopers.

And what of Honor the wife of Cornet Stetson? We only known that she was Honor, and mother of all the children; that she was his companion until long after he had lived his three score years and ten, sharing his work, his joys and sorrows. It is enough.

After the death of Honor, the Cornet asked Mary Bryant, the widow of his old friend and fellow deputy, John Bryant,* if she would finish the journey with him. Mary answered Yes, and became the companion of his old age.

Widow Mary (Hiland) Bryant was an older sister of Ruth, the first wife of the Cornet's oldest son, Joseph. Mary had ten children of her own. The Stetsons and Bryants of those days were very prolific and those early home comings, those "family reunions at the shrine" in the 1690s when the Cornet himself was one of the party must have been very gratifying to the aged couple.

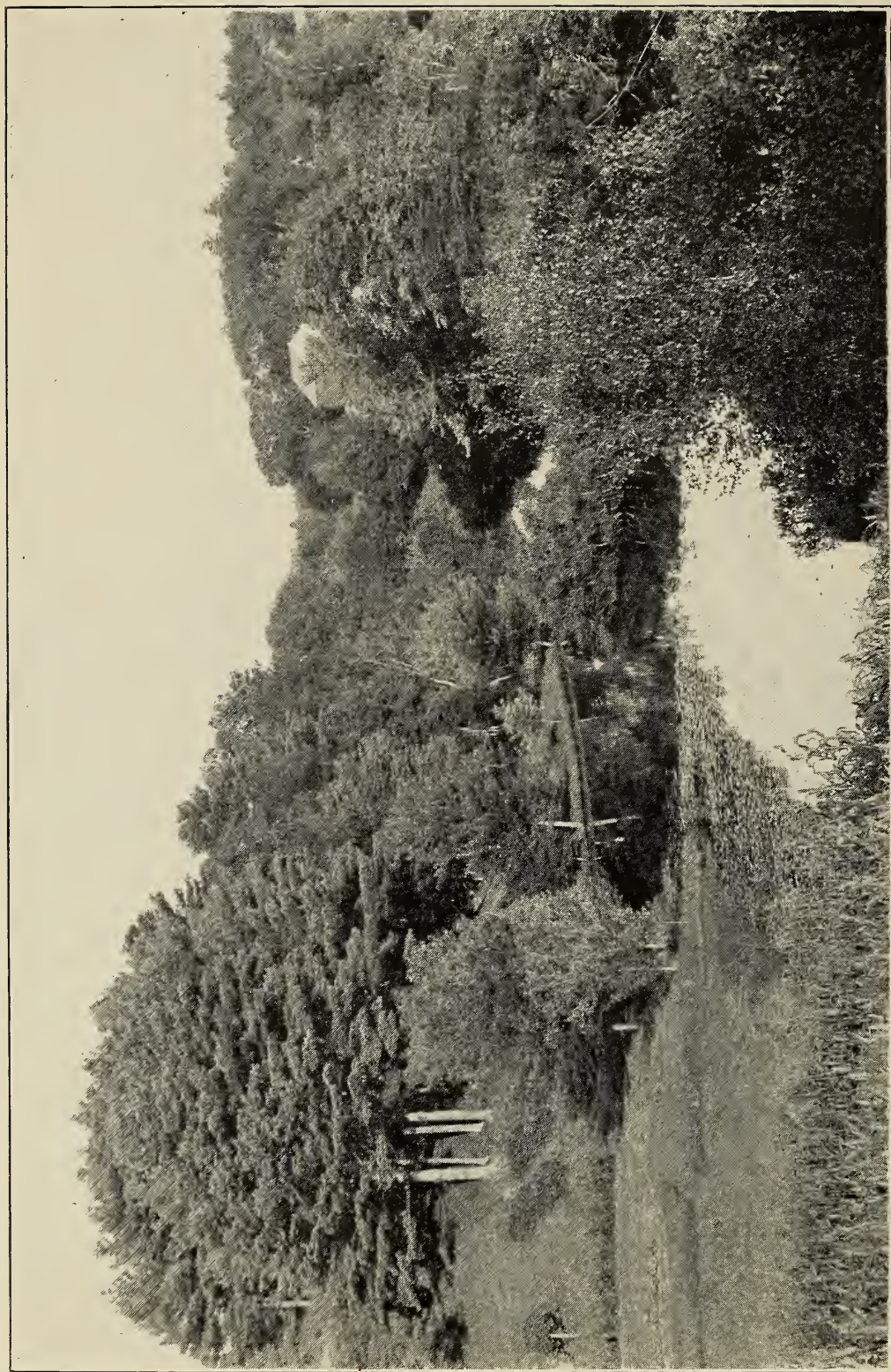
Nearly three hundred years have past since "Robert Studson" and Honor first encamped on the banks of North River, and the name Stetson is now extinct in the towns of Norwell and Scituate, and yet, although it seems incredible, it is nevertheless true, as the vital records of Scituate will demonstrate, that fully half the inhabitants of Norwell and Hanover even today, are descended from this ancient couple.

Of the Cornet's children, **Joseph** had the advantage which in those days came to the oldest son, ie., a double portion of his father's estate, but he doesn't appear to have been as capable as some of his brothers. In the olden time a military title, if nothing more than sargent, was considered a great honor, but we have no record that Joseph ever filled a higher position than that of constable. He, however, left a larger and more distinguished posterity than any of the Cornet's sons. He married first Ruth, daughter of Thomas Hiland, by whom he had one son, Joseph, Jr. For his second wife he married Prudence——? by whom he had seven children. The Cornet's wish that his lands might remain in his family, as signified by his will, "further itt is my will that my sd. Eldest son shall not alien or Sell any of the Lands above given him unless to his children or one of them" has so far been carried out, for until they became the property of all his kindred, the lands continued in the possession of the descendants of Joseph.

Among the most distinguished of Joseph's descendants we can mention Judge Lemuel Stetson, member of Congress from New York State in 1843 and 1844, also his son** Francis Lynde

*John Bryant was also one of the Cornet's Troopers.

**See Stetson Kindred Booklet No. 4 P. 69.



—Photo. by Thos. Drew

INDIAN HEAD RIVER ABOVE "ROCKY RUN"

In 1720 the town of Scituate granted to Joseph Barstow and Benj. Stetson, 2 acres of land on the Indian Head River, between Pine Hill and Rocky Run, for the accommodation of a forge and Finery. (Scit. Records.)
Near site of Phillips Tack Works.

Stetson of N. Y. City, Organizer of and General Counsel for the U. S. Steel Corporation. For his services in organizing this corporation Mr. Stetson received \$1,000,000. probably at this time the largest single legal fee ever paid.. Mr. Stetson was a director and benefactor of Williams College. President Grover Cleveland was a member of Mr. Stetson's law firm during the interval between his two terms as president of the United States. Wm. Wallace Stetson LL. D. of Augusta, Maine, for many years Maine state Supt. of Schools, Herbert Lee Stetson, D. D., LL D.. President of Kalamazoo College, Mich., Geo. R. Stetson of Washington, D C., whose son Caleb is Rector of St. Marks* Washington, D. C., and whose daughter Susan is wife of Admiral Fletcher, U. S. N., commanding the Atlantic squadron, Colonel Isaiah K. Stetson of Bangor, Me., a prominent banker, senator, and formerly speaker of the Maine House of Representatives, Judge Charles Stetson also of Bangor, who was member of Congress in 1849, Hon. Henry Alden Richardson, recently U. S. Senator from Delaware, son of Lucy M. Stetson, three generations of whose ancestors lived in Scituate near Geo. More's Pond, Chas. Walter Stetson, the artist of Providence who recently died in Rome and whose paintings are famous the world over, John Glidden Stetson, LL. D., of Boston who was for forty-two years clerk of the U. S. Circuit Court: these were all descendants of Joseph. The family to which the poet Percy Mackaye belongs are grandchildren of Rebecca Stetson of the family of Joseph via Jesse who was born at "Geo. More's Pond" in Scituate. Jesse had no sons but a large and distinguished posterity via his four daughters.

Captain Benjamin** was the most distinguished of all the Cornet's sons, and seems to have resembled his father more than any of the others. Like his father he served as deputy to Plymouth, and also after the union of the two colonies, represented Scituate at the General Court in Boston in 1693, 1694 and 1700. He survived the Canada expedition in 1690, and after his return was made Captain of the Scituate Company raised in the territory now Hanover and Norwell. Captain Benjamin married Bethia Hawke, daughter of Matthew Hawke*** the town clerk and Schoolmaster of Hingham. John Cushing married her sis-

*Recently succeeded Bishop Manning as rector of Trinity Church N. Y. City.

**For sketch of Captain Benjamin see Stetson Kindred Booklet No. 3, P. 14.

***The Scituate records say "Bethia Lincoln of Hingham". This is incorrect. Capt. Benj. Stetson and Bethia Hawke were married by Peter Hobart. See "Peter Hobart's Journall," also Hingham Records. Bethia's brother Capt. James Hawke was grandfather, and Bethia great aunt to the patriot John Hancock, Governor of Mass. and first signer of the Declaration of Independence.

ter Sarah.* Matthew, the oldest son of Captain Benjamin, was killed in the Canada Expedition, and his 2nd son Benjamin Jr. married Grace Turner, sister to "Lawyer Thomas Turner." His oldest daughter married Deacon John James of Scituate and became the ancestor of all the Scituate Jameses and a large number of distinguished sons of Scituate as Hon. Chas. Turner and Hon. Chas. Turner Jr. whose wife Hannah Jacobs was also a descendant of Captain Benjamin Stetson; Captain John Jacob and David Jacob whose daughter, Relief, was the mother of Hon. Chas. Sumner. One of the most widely known of Captain Benjamin's descendants bearing the name was Gen. Charles A. Stetson of N. Y. City, who was for forty years landlord of the famous Astor House, covering the period of its greatest popularity. Gen. Stetson was a grandson of Capt. Prince Stetson of Hanover who served in the Revolution. Margaret Stetson, a grand daughter of Gen. Stetson, became the wife of Maxwell Evarts, General Counsel for the Union Pacific R. R. and daughter-in-law of Hon. Wm. M. Evarts, U. S. Senator, Attorney General under President Johnson and Secretary of State under President Hayes, etc.

Eugene W. Stetson of Macon, Georgia, recently chosen Vice President of the largest banking house in America, the Guaranty Trust Company of N. Y. City, is also a descendant of Capt. Benjamin.

For his home the Cornet gave Benjamin in 1674 "The Bald Hills" one of the most beautiful spots on the river. Here again we see the old patriarchs thoughtfulness for future generations, for **"said Robert Studson doth by these presents reserve for himself and any that shall come of his family and possess his habitation . . . a way to and from the landing place at Bald Hill free and without any molestation, hindrance or disturbance."** (Cornet Stetson to son Benjamin, 1674, Plym. Deeds B. 1. P. 28)

Five generations of Benjamin's descendants continued to live on the Bald Hill Farm, and Matthew Stetson 1st, the Cornet's first great grandson,— to whom the Bald Hills had descended— leased in 1749 to Ebenezer and Snow Stetson (son and grandson of Thomas) **"the ship yard at Bald Hills"**. We can not mistake the location of "the ship yard" although the exact spot where Captain Benjamin's house stood is uncertain.

This prehistoric "Ship yard at Bald Hills" situated in the very midst of the early settlement, was one of the best natural yards on the river, was in fact the only place on the west side

*Deane states that John Cushing married Sarah Jacobs, also incorrect. He married Sarah Hawke and their son, John Cushing 2nd, Judge of the Superior Court (a judge for 26 years) and his eminent brothers and sisters were of course cousins of the children of Capt. Benjamin Stetson. (See Hingham Rec.)

for a distance of at least two miles in either direction, where the upland came to the water. We can not believe this natural ship yard could have remained idle during the previous century, and yet, for the chance discovery of this lease, and several items in an old account book this ship yard would have remained unknown.

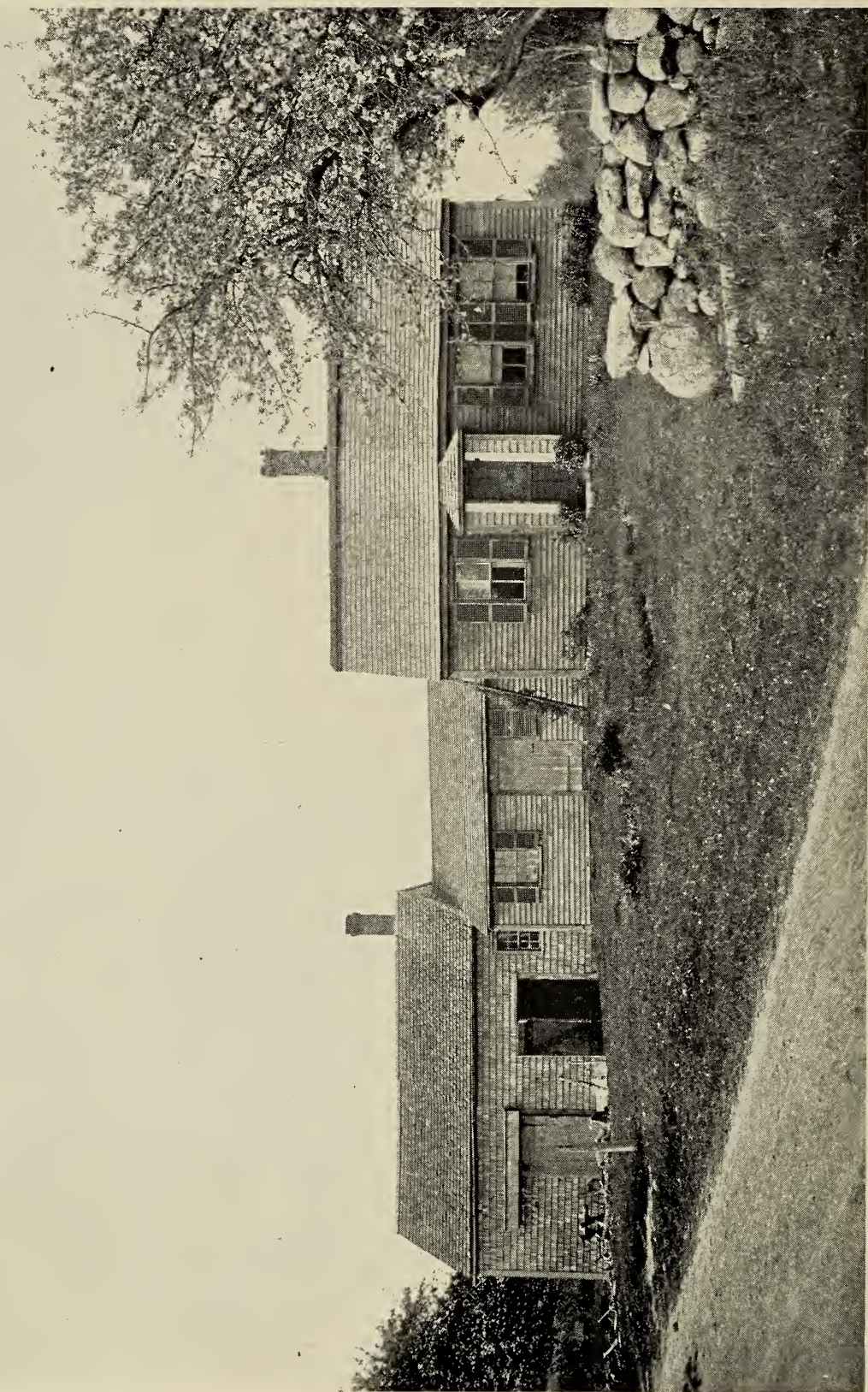
We have this old account book of several hundred pages, begun by Matthew Stetson in 1739 (the time of his father's death) and used on the "Bald Hill farm" by three generations of his descendants, for a period of over one hundred years. In this quaint old book the "Bald Hill yard" is mentioned in 1746, 1748 and 1749. Here also is Matthew's account of the iron work of four different vessels. "The schoolhouse" is also mentioned, and in his account with his neighbors, we notice many items for "scooling" their sons. From these accounts it appears that **Matthew was the village "schoolmaster" in the 1740s as well as the "village blacksmith."**

Thomas married Sarah Dodson and had the unusual family of thirteen children all of whom lived to be married. The Cornet gave him in 1673 a farm of 100 acres on the river next south of his own, on which Thomas brought up his family. *Rev. Caleb Stetson, many years minister of the 2nd church of Scituate was a descendant of Thomas, and has left a large and distinguished family. The late James Burgess Stetson, a R. R. President of San Francisco, Senator John W. Stetson of Oakland, Cal. and Charles Stetson Wheeler, a prominent San Francisco lawyer (Recently selected to present the name of Gov. Hiram Johnson to the Chicago Convention as candidate for the presidency) are all of the family of Thomas. Among the descendants of Thomas not bearing the name, who have joined the Stetson Kindred organization are Ex-Vice President of the United States Levi P. Morton and Walter Lippincott, the publisher, of Philadelphia.

Sergeant Samuel married Lydia Pickles and they had twelve children. The old house which was built at some time previous to 1700 is still standing. In the year 1700 before making his will the Cornet gave Samuel this house and farm, where Samuel was living with his family. The following is from the deed given in 1700:

"I, Robert Stedson, of Scittuate in consideration of the tender love and fatherly affection that I have and beare unto my well beloved son Samuel Stedson of Scittuate afors'd as also for other good causes and consideration at this time Especially herunto moving, have given" etc. **"My uplands and swamps now and for divers years past in the Tenure and occupation of the sd. Samuel Stedson, with the edifices & buildings Erected on same."** (Plym. Col. Deeds B. V, P. 15, Year 1700)

*See Stetson Kindred Booklet No. 5 P. 13.



SERGEANT SAMUEL STETSON HOUSE

Samuel married in 1678. In 1700 the Cornet, aged 89, gave him "My uplands and swamps, now and for divers years past in the Tenure and occupation of the said Samuel, Stetson, with the edifices and buildings erected on same."

We think all will agree that there can be no doubt that these "divers years past" covered the period between Sgt. Samuel's marriage, 1678, and 1700 the time when his father gave him the deed.

For nearly two hundred years this house remained undisturbed. The chimney, a familiar sight in our childhood, was a huge stack of dingy gray, strangely out of proportion to the tiny structure that surrounded it. Nevertheless this diminutive house—called "edifice" in the deed—boasted a brick oven, "set boiler" and a fireplace so large that even the larger children could easily walk into it.

We lament the ruthless destruction some fifty years ago of this old chimney—this priceless relic of the olden time—but doubt not that its removal added much to the happiness of the present generation.

Of Sgt. Samuel's twelve children, Deacon Samuel the oldest was in Wyndham, Ct., in 1705 and died in Mansfield, Ct., in 1726* Silas succeeded to the home place, while Jonah built the large house still standing on the hill above. This house on the hill was occupied by four successive generations viz. Capt. Jonah. Jonah 2nd, Micah and Ebenezar, all of these were prominent in town affairs, both Micah and Ebenezar represented Scituate in the legislature. Deacon Ebenezar of the 2nd Church was the last of this line in Scituate. Mr. Albert L. Stetson a very successful merchant, and director of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce is descended from Sgt. Samuel as also Mrs. Mary Stetson Harrison, wife of Col. James J. Harrison of Hull, Eng., and Mistress of Brandesburton Hall, one of the very old English estates with over seven hundred tenants; she is the ninth generation from Cornet Stetson via. Sergeant Samuel. Sgt. Samuel's 3d son, John, built the first tide mill at the harbor, and in 1730 bought the Wanton Estate on the river where he had an extensive ship yard.

The first mention of **Ensign John Stetson** on the colony records was in 1689 when it was "ordered that John Stetson have 15 shillings p'r weeke for being helpful to the commisary" (Col. Ct. Orders Vol. VI P. 229). The following year he was Ensign in Capt. Sylvester's Scituate company and died in the Canada Expedition in 1690 at the age of 41. His estate received the share of land to which he was entitled for his services, ie., a share of land in Ipswich, Canada, afterwards Winchendon, Mass. (see Society Colonial Wars Vol. of 1898 P. 37-190). Ensign John married Abigail, daughter of John Hudson of Scituate, and they had five children. We have the record of only two. Abigail who married in 1707 Benoni Studley of Scituate, and Honor, who married Thomas Hunt of Duxbury in 1708. Both had large families through which the posterity of Ensign John is widely distributed.

*For history of this branch of the family see Stetson Kindred Booklet Vol. V P. 49.

***Robert Stetson, Jr.**, the youngest of the Cornet's sons who survived, married Joanna, daughter of Wm. and Susanna Brooks, who was a niece of Timothy Hatherly and received by his will the largest bequest excepting the bequest to his wife. In her "acquittal" (Col. Rec. Vol. III P. 94) Susanna in acknowledging receipt of legacy, twice refers to Mr. Hatherly as "My Unkell". Roberts house was burned in the Indian raid in 1676 (Deane). He afterwards received a grant of 100 acres in that part of Duxbury which became Pembroke, and was living on this grant when Pembroke was incorporated in 1712. (See Stetson Kindred Booklet No. 5 P. 15) Just before the Cornet died he gave Robert a river farm in the "two mile" which Robert afterwards sold.

Descendants of Robert have been prominent in large business undertakings. Among these we will mention Mr. Nahum Stetson of N. Y. City, a member of the firm of Steinway and Sons Piano Makers, and American agent for that company.

John B. Stetson, noted philanthropist, largest hat manufacturer in the world, and founder of the Stetson University, Deland Florida, which he endowed with \$1,000,000. was descended from Robert. Lieut. Deming Jarves of Val. Fleuri, Dinard, France is also a descendant of Robert, being a son of Anna Stetson Jarves of Boston. Lt. Jarves although over 80 years of age was recently decorated by the French Government with the high distinction, "Chevalier de le Legion d'Honneur" for distinguished service in Brittany.

Eunice the only daughter of the Cornet who survived, married in 1669 at the age of nineteen, Timothy Rogers of Marshfield. They had ten children and we have found on the records fifty three of their grandchildren. As nearly all of these married in Marshfield and Scituate, leaving large families, the Cornet's influence upon the present generations of Marshfield and Scituate, via descendants of Eunice, may well be imagined. Drummond's **John Rogers of Marshfield** is practically a record of the descendants of Eunice Stetson Rogers.

The once prosperous settlement that surrounded the Cornet's old home, has been gradually changing all these years until now the locality is fast approaching the primeval state in which the Cornet found it nearly three centuries ago. To the north evidences of the homestead of Sergeant Humphrey Johnson, purchased of the Cornet in 1651, have entirely disappeared. The garden lot now grows a forest. Still further north once stood the home of William Brooks, where the Cornet's son Robert wooed the fair Johanna. Following the uplands near the edge of the meadows, half a mile back from the nearest

*See sketch of Robert Stetson Jr. Stetson Kindred Booklet No. 5 P. 115

town road, much overgrown, and scarcely distinguishable is the ancient roadway that connected these homesteads. Next south of the old home was the farm of the 3d son, Thomas, (still under cultivation) and beyond, the home of Captain Benjamin, at Bald Hills, before mentioned. Just south of the Bald Hills on one of the "grate lotts" stood the home of David Bryant, inherited from his father, John Bryant Jr. On the verge of the swamp, beneath a giant white oak (one of the last of its generation) is a copious boiling spring. These two companions of the time of David Bryant, alone remain to mark the site of the old Bryant homestead. David died in 1731 and his many descendants, in all parts of the country can hark back for their ancestors to this old ruin in the thicket.

Cornet Stetscn died in the year 1702-3 at the age of ninety years, having lived for sixty eight years in Scituate during which time he was unquestionably the leading citizen of the south part of the town now known as Norwell.

It will be remembered that Mr. Hatherly, General Cudworth, James Torrey and John Cushing all lived in the north division still known as Scituate.

It is not easy to understand how the people of South Scituate (now Norwell) could have sold their birthright to the ancient and honorable name **Scituate** for a trifling sum, and later refuse even to name a street in honor of him who **was its founder and for half a century its leading soldier, citizen, and representative,**— it could only have been through ignorance of, or lack of appreciation of the facts presented in the preceding pages.*

In 1905 a society of the Cornet's descendants known as the **Stetscn Kindred of America** was organized with the late Francis Lynde Stetson of N. Y. City as president, and the late John B. Stetson of Philadelphia, vice-president. These gentlemen purchased and presented to the Kindred, the Cornet's old homestead, together with 46 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres of the original farm, although the original house had been demolished more than one hundred and fifty years. Here at the "shrine" the home of their ancestor, the Kindred from all parts of the country meet annually, drink from the Cornet's spring, and spend the day on the spot where 287 years ago Robert Stetson first brought Honor, his wife, built his rude home and laid the foundation of the Stetson family of America, and of the town of South Scituate (Norwell).

*Some years later the town reconsidered this vote and appointed a committee, who very appropriately gave the name **Stetson Road** to the old road adjacent to the Cornet's farm.

The story of Cornet Stetson would hardly be complete without a copy of his will and the inventory of his estate.

In reading these, his estate seems small, but we should bear in mind that he was nearly ninety years of age and doubtless had during his later years spent a considerable portion of his means in providing for himself and family. Moreover he had previously given each son a large and valuable farm, and to Capt. Ben. two, that were especially desirable.

THE WILL OF CORNET STETSON

Scituate, the fourth Day of September, anno Domini 1702

I, Robert Stetson, of Scituate, in the County of Plymouth, in New England Being Aged and week of Body But of Sound Disposing Mind and memory

Prayers Be Rendered to God for the same and Being In Daly Expectation of My Last and Great Change and Desirus to set things In Order Before My Death do therefore hereby Make and Declare this my last Will and testament in Manner following

Imps. I humbly commit my Spirit to the father of Spirits And my Body to Decent Buriel when itt Shall Plese God to Call He hence. . .

And touching shuch outward Estates as itt hath pleased God to Bless Me with My all Will is that the Same Be Employed Bestowed According as herein Expressed, etc.

Item. I Give And Bequeath to Mary My Well Beloved wife upon the proviso and Condition herein after Set Down, the Sume of twelve pounds in money and ten pounds Worth of My Household Goods Shuch as She Shall Choose with the Sole use and Benefit of the South End of My Now Dwelling house and one half of my Seller, and two Cows with Summer pasture and Wintering of them. With fifteen Bushells of Good Merchantable Bread corn annually paid and delivered to her and Suffisiant and Covenant fire Wood Cut and Laid att her Door as shee shall want the same, the said ten pounds worth of Goods and two Cows with the said twelve pounds in Money to Be at her own Disposal as to her shall seem meet the other perticulars to Bee for her Support and Comfart during her Remainder my widdow and No Longer, the sd. ten pounds worth of Goods and Cows to be Paid and Delivered to her. By my Executors within two months after my Decease ye sd. twelve Pounds in Money and other perticulars to Be paid and Delivered to her By my Eldest Son Joseph Stetson as followeth (viz) the said Money att three several payments (to wit) four pounds to Bee paid in one year after my Decease and other four pounds within two Years after my Decease ye Residue at the Expiration of three years after my Decease the sd. Bread Corn Summering and wintering of ye sd Cows and firewood Provided to Be Annually Delivered paid and performed By my said son as ye same is above Expressed.

Allways Provided and itt is the true Intent and meaning of This my will and the Condition of the Bequests and Devise above said—And Every perticuler of the same.

That my Wife Shall and Do Within two Months after my Decease in wrighting under her hand and seal absolutely Quit Claim too and Release her Right of Dower and power of thirds in and unto all my Lands and houseing in Scituate aforesaid that she may thence fourth have Or pretend to have in or unto the same or any part thereof Except what is above Given unto her to my Eldest Son and His Heirs etc.

Item. I Give And Bequeath to my said Eldest Son Joseph Stetson All that my Dweling House out Houses upland And medows Being the farm on which I now live and Dwell to hole to him and his heirs forever according to the known and accustomed Bounds of the same Excepting Out of itt one Acre of Medow which formerly I promised to give to my son Samuel Lying Next unto his other Medow which said Excepted acre of Medow I hereby Give and Bequeath to my son Samuel and his heirs for ever hereby Enjoyning my said Eldest Son Joseph Stetson to pay Deliver and perform unto my wife as above said upon her Release of Dower as above said And acceptance of What is By this my will Given and Bequeathed unto her which if She shall neglect Doing or Refusing to Do then I hereby Declare that what I have above Bequeathed unto her and Every perticuler of the same shall thenceforth Be null and void.

futher itt is my Will that my sd Eldest Son Shall not alien or Sell any of the Lands above Given him unles to his children or one of them.

Item. I Give And Bequeath to my Son Benjamin ten pound out of my moveable Estate.

Item. I Give And Bequeath to my son Thomas five pound to Be paid him out of my Moveables.

Item. I Give and Bequeath to my Son Samuel the sume of Eight pounds out of my Moveable Estate. Item. I Give And Bequeath to my Daughter Eunice Rogers ye sume of ten pounds out of my moveable Estate.

Item. I Give And Bequeath to my son Robert my Wearing Cloaths which with what I have formerly Given him I judge Convenient for him.

Item. I Give And Bequeath to my Daughter in law Abigail the Relict and widow of my son John Deceast the sume of ten pounds to be paid out of my moveable Estate.

Item. I Give unto my Grand Children yet are now surviving to Each of them Six Shillings.

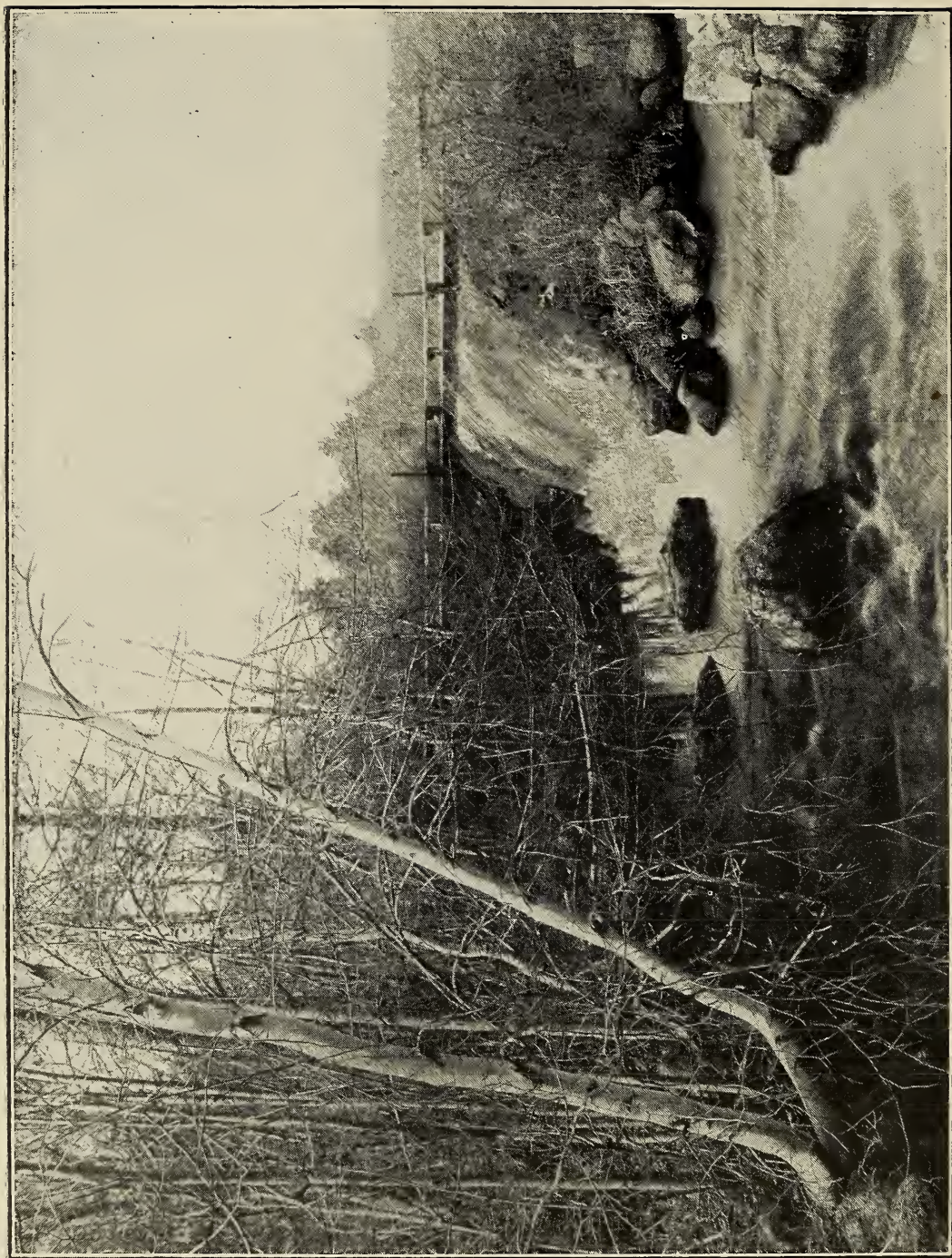
Item. My Debts Legaceys And funeral Expences Being paid I hereby order the Residue of my Moveables to Be Equally Devided Between my three Children viz. Benjamin Samuel and Eunice.

Lastly, I Nominate And appoint my two sons, Namely Benjamin And Samuel Joyant Executors of this my last Will and testament and hereby Revoke and make Void my former will or wills By me made and Declared this only to Be my last will and testament. In testimony Whereof I have hereunto Sealed and Subscribed the Day and year first above written. In presents of these witnesses.

JOSEPH BEARSTOW
WILLIAM BEARSTOW
SAMUEL SPRAGUE

The Mark of Cornet
ROBERT (R.) STETSON

On the first day of March 1702-3 Before Nath'll Thomas Esqr. the said Joseph Bearstow, William Bearstow and Samuel Sprague made oath that they did see and here the above said Robert Stetson Sign Seal and Declare the above Wrighting to Be his Last Will and testament And that he was then of A Disposing mind to Best of there Knowledge and Judgment."



WHERE THE 3D HERRING BROOK FALLS INTO TIFFANY MILL-POND

Formerly for 100 years "Jonah's Mill-Pond." See note.

THE INVENTORY

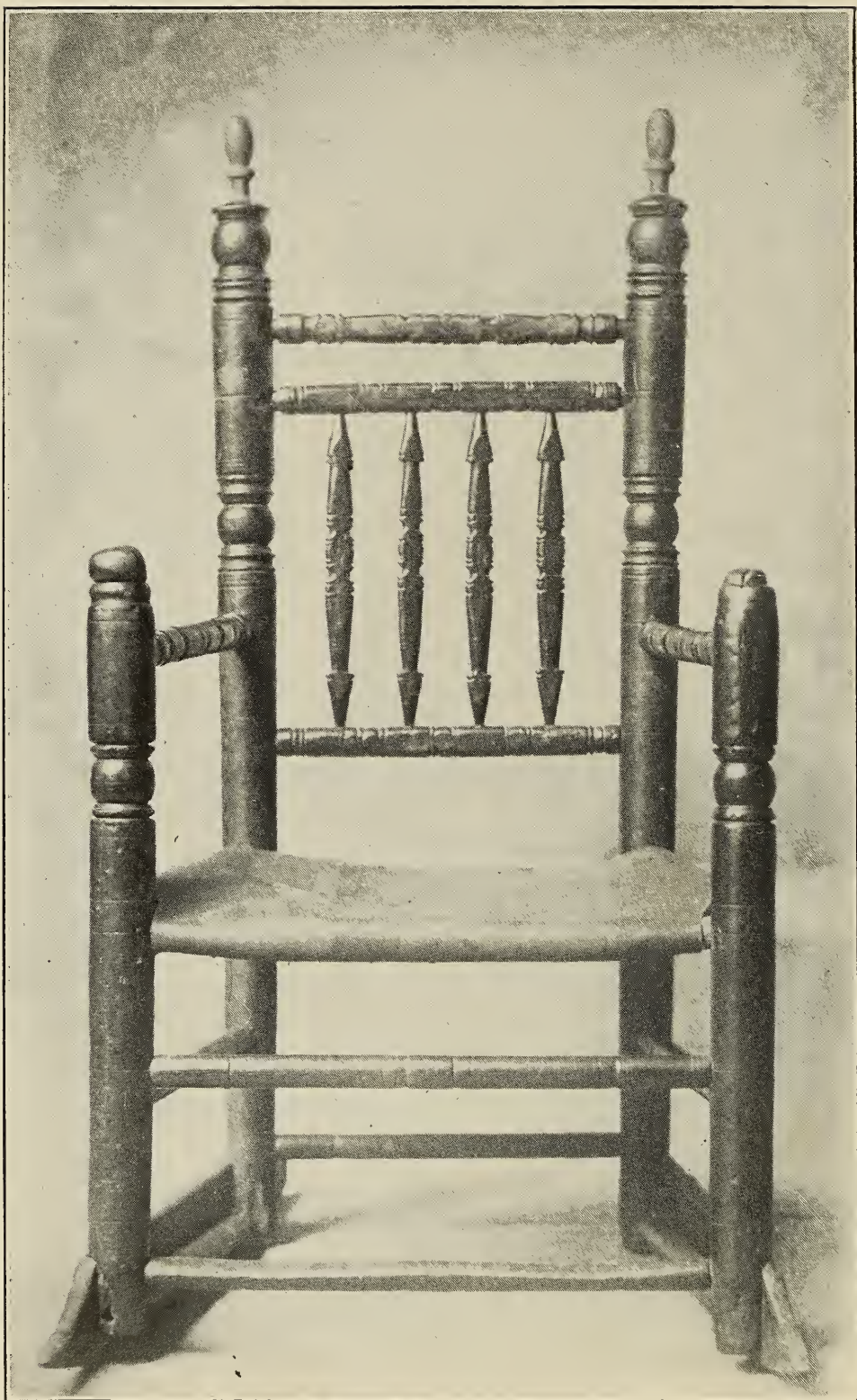
“Scittuate the 10 of february 1702”

“An inventory of all the goods and chattels of Cornet Robert Stedson Deceased as followeth taken by us whose names are herunto subscribed.”

Item. in apparill both linen a woolling	5	10	00
Item. in money & Plate & books	2	08	00
Item. four feathor beds & furniture	27	00	00
One Covered	1	10	00
Item twenty five pair of Sheets	20	01	00
in household linen pillow coats & table-			
clothes Napkins Towels	5	15	00
In new linning woolling cloth & leather	03	08	00
in pewter new & old	5	07	00
in Brass new & old	06	00	00
more in Iron	04	08	00
Iron old & new	2	16	06
one old bed aflock bed & beding & baskets	2	00	00
in woll thread cooper ware & trays	1	08	00
in wooden Dishes glass bottles earthen			
ware & Spoons	0	08	00
in Provision beefe Porke butter cheese & Corn	4	15	00
Armes & ammunition	1	16	00
Chairs & cushings & other small things	0	15	00
in chests boxes & table	1	08	00
in sheep cattle & horse	16	05	00
in lumber	0	18	00
two piggs	0	10	00
four pound of bullets			
one shilling sence discovered			

SAMUEL CLAP
THOMAS KING
RICHARD DWELLY

Note. See opposite page. In 1673 Cornet Stetson and John Bryant laid out to Charles Stockbridge 34 acres of land on the west side of the 3d Herring Brook, one half mile below Cornet's mill "on account of his building a corn mill" (Scit. Records B. 2 P. 19) Prior to 1692 Sergeant Sam'l. Stetson became a partner and the mills continued in his family for five generations, ie. Capt. Jonah, Jonah 2nd, Micah and last Dea. Ebenezer who sold both "Saw mill and grist mill" "dam" "privileges" etc. in 1832 to Samuel Salmond. (Plym. Deeds B. 74 P. 128). For more than an hundred years it was known as "Jonah's Mill". It is now called by the more euphonious name "Tiffany" for Recompence Tiffany who inherited the adjoining farm and shares in the earlier mill from his father-in-law Charles Stockbridge Jr.



"THE STETSON CHAIR"
(1640-1660)

"A STETSON CHAIR"

Colonel William J. Howard of Whitman, Mass. an authority on antiques, sends us this picture of an old Stetson chair. He says:

"This very fine chair we have named 'The Stetson' to distinguish it from the Brewster and Carver chairs of the same period. While all of these chairs were made of Ash and were alike in many respects, yet they differed somewhat in detail. The Carver chair has only three spindles in the back and the Brewster chair has spindles under the arms.

The date of this chair is very early because the posts are heavy being $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter at the top. Probably 1640-60.

This chair is one of the finest specimens that has been found to date. It is in almost perfect state of preservation. The turnings are excellent and all original. The rockers do not belong on the chair but their condition and style would indicate that they had been there very many years. The original seat was probably rush.

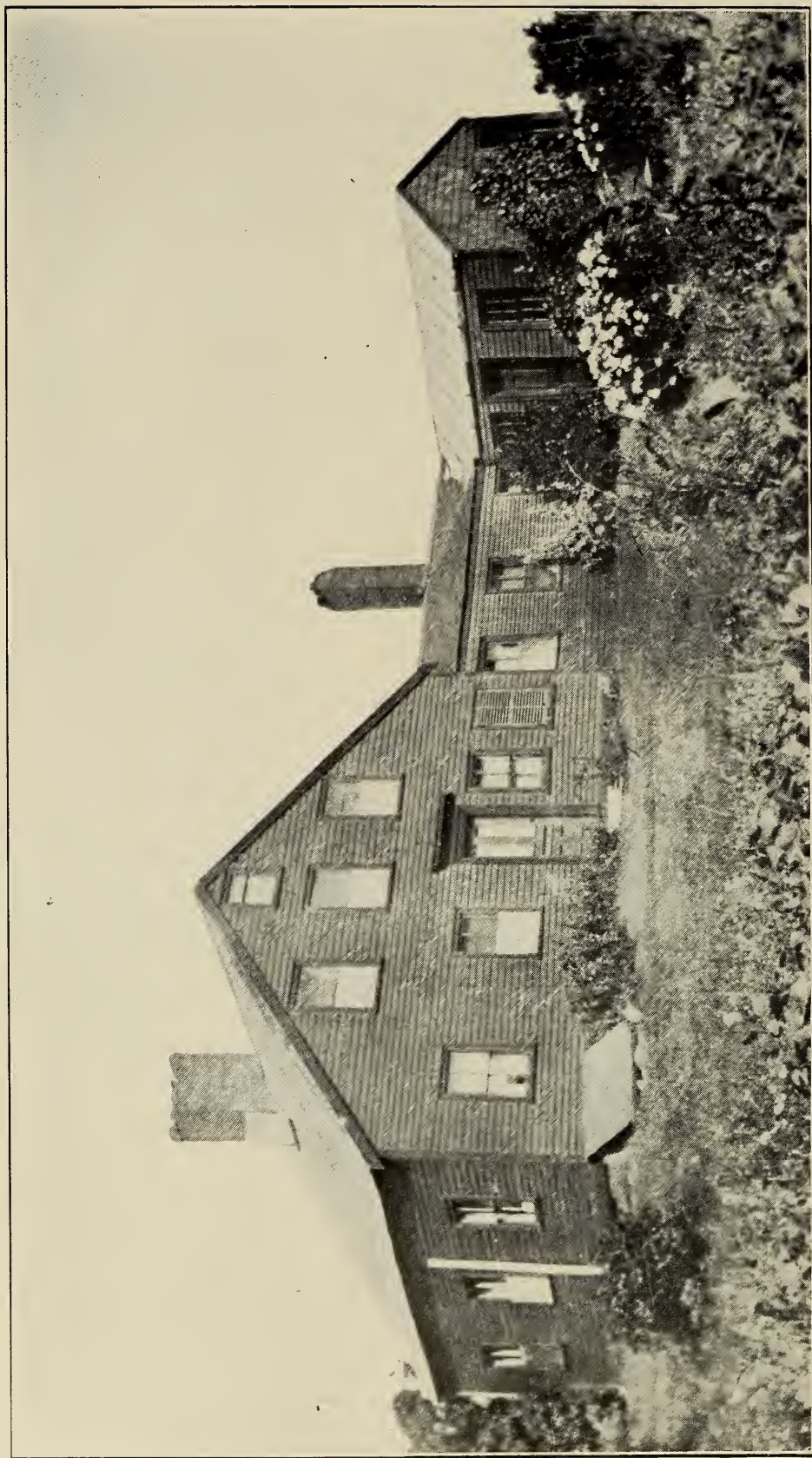
The first authentic record we have of this chair dates from 1840, when the household effects of Deacon Ephraim Stetson of East Abington were sold at auction. The chair was then bought by Mr. David Beal of East Abington now Rockland, Mass. The chair remained in the Beal family until May 9, 1923 when Miss Ada M. Beal, daughter of David Beal, sold it to Col. William J. Howard of Whitman, Mass.

There is no question about the date of this chair and that it belonged to Dea. Ephraim Stetson at the time of his death in 1839.

Where did the Deacon get it?

Undoubtedly he inherited it from his ancestors and that it belonged originally say 1660 to Cornet Robert Stetson of Scituate."

COL. WILLIAM J. HOWARD



"THE MOLLY STETSON PLACE," "SOUTH OF GEORGE MOORES POND" IN SCITUATE.

Home of Robert Stetson (3) and four generations of his descendants, from 1699 to 1857.

THE MOLLY STETSON PLACE

(The ancestors and descendants of David Stetson of Scituate)

by Nelson M. Stetson

In 1692, ten years before the death of **Cornet Stetson**, his grandson **Robert³**, son of **Joseph²**, married Mary, the oldest daughter of Captain Anthony Collamore, and settled in Scituate near "George Moore's Pond" where four generations of his descendants continued to flourish for more than an hundred and fifty years.

Later, in 1699, Robert purchased of Thomas Ingham "for the just sum of 25 pounds" "Five acres of upland with dwelling house, orchard, edifices and buildings being and standing upon ye same." (Plym. Deeds B. 3. P. 8).

They had eight children, six boys and two girls, all of whom with the exception of Isaac who was drowned in 1719 off the 4th Cliff, married and reared large families. The descendants of Robert and Mary are found in nearly every state in the Union.

It would be interesting to follow out these lines, but it is our purpose here to follow more particularly those who continued to live in Scituate near "George Moore's Pond" and "Stony Brook" and in the region of the First Herring Brook, now known as "Greenbush."

Peter Collamore, an early and prosperous settler in Scituate, possessed of considerable wealth, having no children of his own, selected his nephew Anthony Collamore to be his heir: giving him the greater part of his wealth, in fact we infer from his will that he deliberately imported Anthony for this purpose. For some reason Peter also gave his grandniece Mary, oldest daughter of Anthony and afterwards wife of Robert Stetson, sixty-five acres of land in Scituate and a cow. He describes this land as "all that my great lot of land lying or being in ye township of Scituate" (see will of Peter Collamore 1683). We would not imply that this had anything to do with Robert's choice of Mary for a wife; of course the oldest daughter of the Captain had ample charms of her own, but Robert doubtless found the broad acres and the cow very convenient.

Captain Anthony Collamore married Sarah, one of the twin daughters of Isaac and Martha (Vinal) Chittenden, and it is of interest to the descendants of Robert and Mary to know that their ancestor, Isaac Chittenden, long a deputy to the Colony Court, member of the Counsel of War, and Town Counsel during Philip's War, was killed in defending his home from the savages during the Indian raid of 1676. Captain Collamore's death occurred on Dec. 19th, 1693, when his vessel was wrecked off Scituate beach on the rocks since known as "Collamore's Ledge." At the time of his death he also was Captain of the Scituate Company and was, according to Deane, "buried under military honors."

Anthony Stetson⁴ was the oldest son of Robert and Mary Collamore Stetson. Mary named him Anthony, of course, in honor of her father, Captain Anthony Collamore. Anthony married in 1717 Anne Smith, daughter of Joseph and Ann (Hatch) Smith of Scituate. They lived on the farm south of Geo. Moore's Pond, (so called in Deane's History of Scituate 1831 p. 341 and Barry's Records, 1847 p. 23.) Without doubt the home place of his father Robert.

Mr. Deane states (History of Scituate p. 291) that "Anthony Stetson purchased his pleasant farm south of Geo. Moore's swamp of Thomas Ingham before 1720" but we find that it was his father Robert who purchased it of Thomas Ingham twenty years earlier, in 1699 as previously stated.

In 1719 Robert³ purchased of his father Joseph² who was in his eighty first year, the Cornet's old home by the river—the home of his childhood—and removed there with his family to care for his father Joseph in his old age. (Plym. Deeds B. 14 p. 188) Anthony then came into possession of the farm at George Moore's Pond for although we can find no record of the transaction he certainly was living there the next year, 1720.

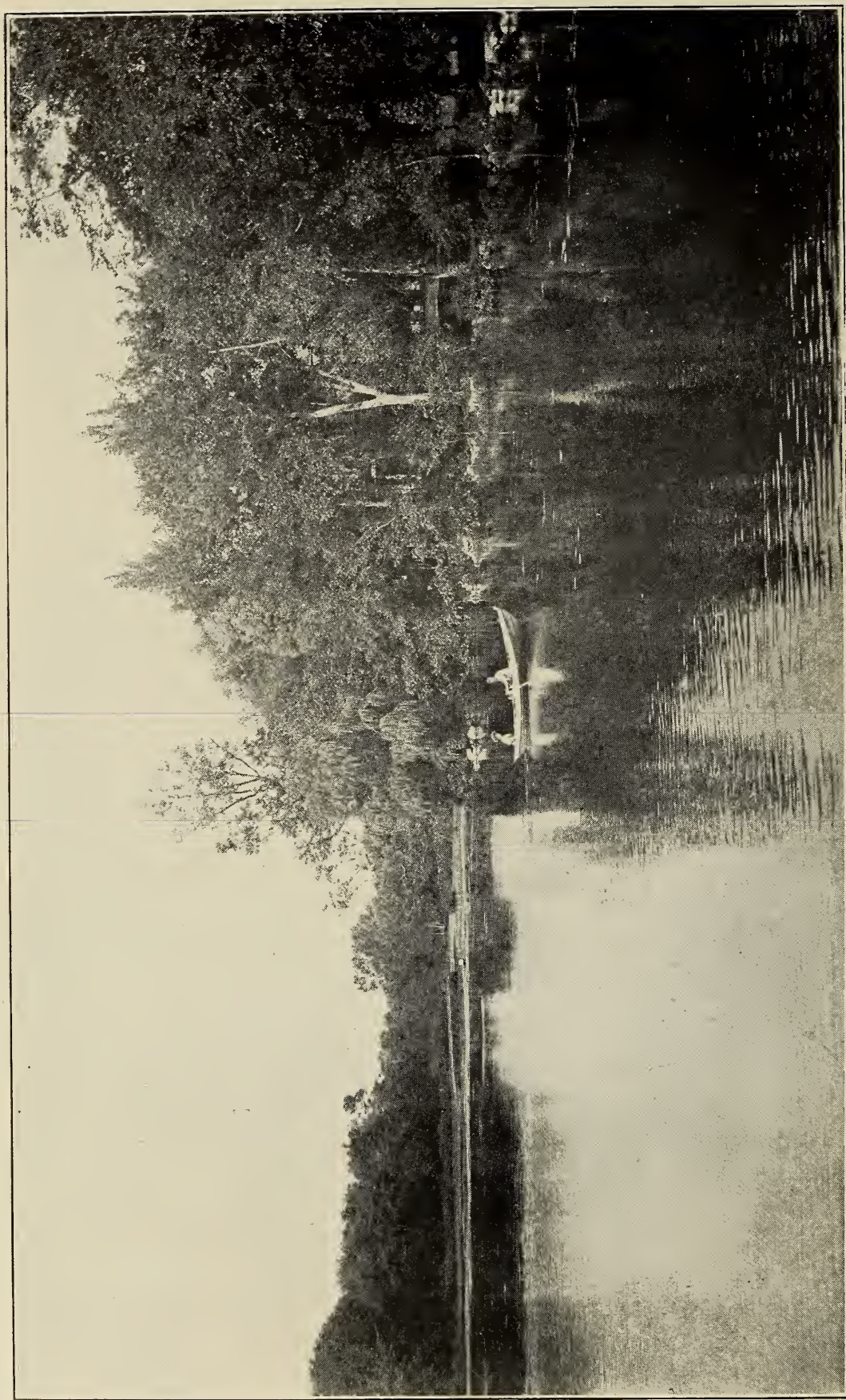
Robert had lived in this part of Scituate for upwards of twenty-five years and was a party in many land transactions, but the boundaries are obscurely stated and the tracts located with difficulty. We know however that Anthony added to his farm in 1731 by purchasing from Ephriam Otis 13 acres of adjoining lands, across the "way" (now discontinued) bounded "west by Ridge Hill way, north by Benj. Curtis land, and east by George Moore's swamp" (Plym. Deeds B. 26 P. 56.)

In 1723 Anthony and Anna sold to her "brother Joseph Smith of Scituate, Clothier" "land adjoining a swamp called Geo. Moore's swamp, being one fourth of the estate in Scituate which our Honored father Joseph Smith dyed seized of" (Ply. Deeds B. 18. P. 181.)

Now Anthony was a "cordwainer" which is, being interpreted, a shoemaker. We are glad that Anthony was a shoemaker: had he learned a profession Anna might have been a society woman with no time to care for a family; as it was Anthony, the "Cordwainer", and Anna his wife **reared a family of eleven children all of whom married and had children.** Sixty-nine grandchildren are recorded. What more honorable record than to have been the parents of eleven healthy children and sixty-nine grandchildren?

Anthony's children were Mary, Isaac, Joseph, Anna, Charles, Ezra, Elisha, Thomas, Benjamin, Abiel and Martha. The girls **Mary, Anna and Martha, each had ten children.** Joseph and Elisha moved to Kingston, Thomas to Barnstable, Charles to Rochester, Ezra to Hardwick, Abiel and Martha (Taylor) to Chesterfield, while Isaac, Benjamin, Mary (Vinal) and Anna (Hayden) remained in Scituate. Only two of Benjamin's children remained in Scituate, i. e., Mercy who married Elijah Jenkins, and Betsy who married Leonard Clapp, Nov. 28, 1797 and became mistress of the historic Clapp Mansion, the ancient seat of the Clapp family. Here they reared **their family of twelve children,** born from 1798 to 1817. Their descendants even unto the sixth generation are found in the neighborhood and surrounding towns.

Mary Stetson⁵, born Dec. 9, 1717, oldest child of Anthony married June 29, 1736, John Vinal Jr., widower, and had children John 1737, Simeon 1739, Ezekiel 1742, Elizabeth 1744, and Ruth 1746, (Scituate Vit. Rec.) and then she became a widow. But this nice little family did not satisfy Mary and being only thirty-two years of age she married on Feb. 15th 1749 James Woodworth, and had Samuel 1750, James, 1752, William 1754, Elisha 1756, and last of all in 1758 Benjamin Woodworth. (Scituate Rec). Had it not been for this Benjamin "The Old Oaken Bucket" might have "hung in the well" unsung until it rusted out, for the poet who wrote the familiar song was Samuel Woodworth, son of Benjamin and grandson of Mary Stetson. Eight sons and two daughters, five Vinals and five Woodworths. Just think of the probable posterity of Anthony via Mary.



"OLD OAKEN BUCKET POND.," STOCKBRIDGE MILL-POND.

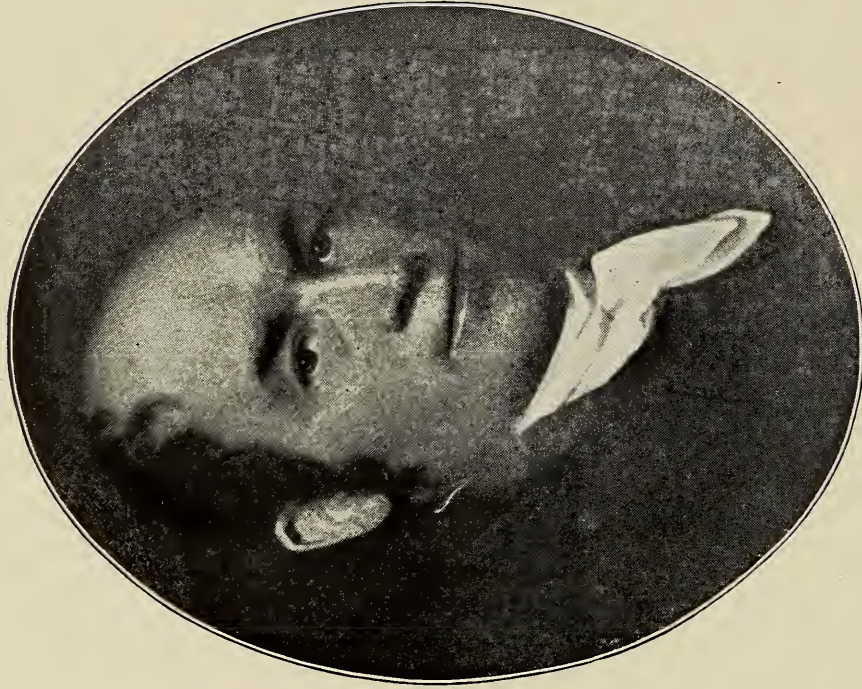
Where Cornet Stetson appeared from "The South," and with Lieut. Buck, from "The North," put the savages "en route." May 20th, 1676.

There is yet another reason why the Stetson Kindred should be interested to visit the "Old Oaken Bucket Pond" and the "Mill that stood by it." During the childhood of the poet the old Mill "where the cataract fell" was owned by Dr. Charles Stockbridge who with his beautiful wife Eleanor Stetson (John³, Sgt. Samuel² Cornet Robert¹) occupied the "old mansion house." Their only son, Dr. Charles Stockbridge 2nd, the 6th to inherit the historic mill and mansion house, died unmarried; but his sister Ruth married Ebenezer Thompson, grandson of their pastor, Rev. Ebenezer Thompson, Rector of St. Andrews church on Church Hill in 1738, the first Episcopal church built in the old colony. Rev. Dr. Ebenezer Thompson of Sarasota, Florida, who recently addressed the Stetson Kindred at their shrine, was grandson of Eleanor Stetson. Nor should we forget that one hundred years earlier in Philip's raid on Scituate, the Stockbridge mansion was used as a garrison house. It was around this old mill that the Indians fought longest and here that Cornet Stetson appeared from "the South" with his troopers on the eve of that fateful 20th of May 1676 and with Lieut. Buck from "The North" put the savages "en route".

Isaac Stetson⁵, oldest son of Anthony married in 1744 Ruth Prouty and continued to occupy the homestead south of Geo. Moore's Pond. Mr. Barry says "He lived to be ninety-two years of age and died very much respected and beloved." **Isaac also had a family of eleven children**, but although his posterity is large very few remained in Scituate. Isaac Jr. perished in the Revolution on board the Jersey prison ship May 5th, 1778, and one daughter died in infancy. The rest of this sturdy brood found their wings early. Molly alone of all this large family remained to comfort her parents in their old age.

Molly took great interest in the farm, and before Isaac died in 1811 he deeded to her all his real estate including the homestead at "George Moore's swamp" and "the fresh and salt meadows near Stony Brook" also "the pew in the South Meeting House situated between the pew of Elijah Foster and the pew of Jesse Turner's heirs" (Plym. deeds B. 140 P. 206).

For forty three years after the death of her father Isaac, Molly continued, with the assistance of a decrepit little "hired man" to till the farm south of George Moore's swamp, until she herself died in 1854 at the age of ninety-two years. Molly farmed successfully and was considered by her neighbors an authority on all matters pertaining to a farm.



DAVID STETSON OF SCITUATE
1769-1833

From paintings in possession of Rear Admiral Colby, Marlborough St., Boston.



SARAH LAPHAM STETSON
1773-1861

At the end of a lane leading from the remote country road we find the quaint old home, still known to a few of the older people as the Molly Stetson Place, now occupied by the Burns family. From Mrs. Burns whose mother had been Molly's friend and neighbor for years, we learn of the "Molly Stetson cheeses" famous the country over, and of the "best room" into which the neighbors were rarely admitted: the room kept immaculate for "her girls", the young ladies from the city. These were her brother David's children and grand children by whom she was affectionately known for two generations as "old Aunt Molly."

Of course there was a romantic side to Molly's long life of ninety-two years on the farm, but of this the records are silent: that was Molly's secret and rests with her in the church yard.

A short time before Molly died she called in "Squire Robbins" (Anson) and his two daughters Clarissa and Rachael, and made her will. After distributing among her neighbors and friends, articles of wearing apparel, a bed, a bible, silver spoons and odd pieces of furniture she gave the residue to her "sister Sarah" widow of her youngest brother David; and so, for a few years longer in possession of David's children, the old place continued in the Stetson name.

Thirty descendants of Robert and Mary Collamore Stetson began life in this humble cottage away over here by George Moore's swamp, and later left its shelter to seek their fortune in the busy world outside. They were remarkably successful, and many of their descendants have achieved national reputations in their chosen fields.

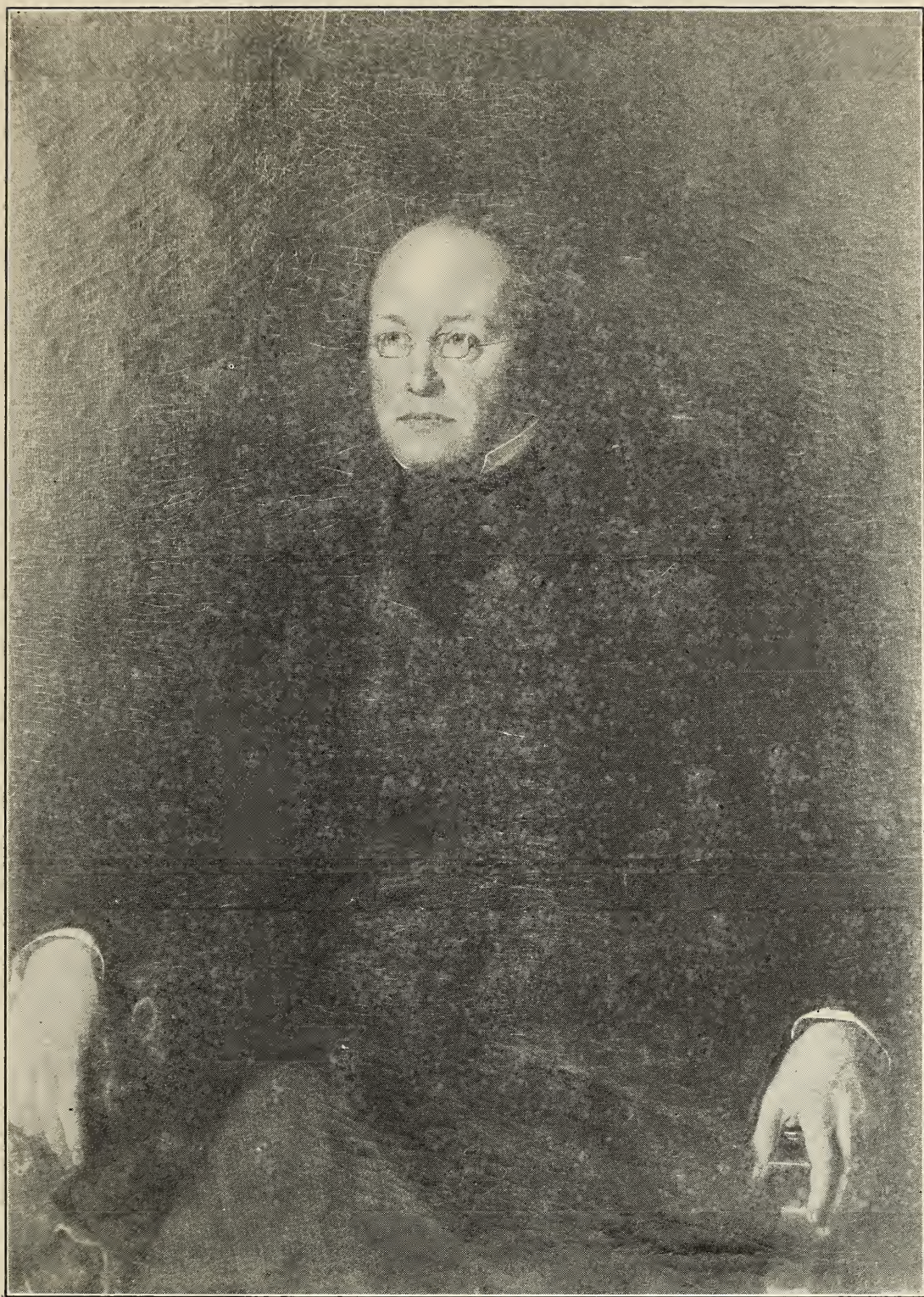
The old place has a proud record but its days are numbered, it can no longer withstand the ravages of the years: its timbers are "powder posted" the chimney crumbling, and soon there will be nothing left but a memory.

Of those who roamed these fields and woods more than a century ago we will follow one: David, the youngest of all, the 30th, and last of his race to be born under this homely roof.



REBECCA VOSE STETSON

Daughter of Colonel Robert Vose and wife of Charles Stetson



CHARLES STETSON, BORN 1796, SON OF DAVID AND SARAH

Painted by Eaton for The American Art Union of Cincinnati, of which Mr. Stetson was president. In possession of Mrs. Caroline E. Fiske of Deepwell Park, Stamford, Ct.

David Stetson⁶, Molly's brother, and the youngest of Isaac's eleven children, born July 7, 1769, married Sarah Lapham of Scituate, Sept. 8, 1793 and the very next year removed to Charlestown Massachusetts where **they also had a family of eleven children**, but alas! one generation of town life, modern civilization with its advantages of education and affluence destroyed forever the hope of large families in the line of David; and although there were three sons representing the finest type of manhood, there were no grandchildren bearing the family name.

Four of the daughters, however, had descendants of whom we may well be proud, but, even though modern theorists might console us with the assurance that David's descendants made up in quality what was lacking in quantity, we can but think the old way best.

Mr. Timothy Sawyer in his interesting book of reminiscence **Old Charlestown** says "The Stetsons were a prominent family in Old Charlestown. David who came from Scituate in 1794 was one of Charlestown's leading citizens, and his family occupied a high position for many years. He was one of the incorporators of the Warren Institution for Savings and one of its trustees. His residence was on Henly Street, the front and rear were of wood, the sides of brick and the main entrance on one end on what was known as 'Stetson's Court' ". "This place was particularly attractive and always in order. He was a dealer in lumber and kindred merchandise and occupied what was then known as 'Stetson's Wharf'. He was a man of great business ability and was looked up to as a citizen of standing and character. He was one of the original members of the Harvard Unitarian Society and one of the subscribers toward the purchase of the first church building."

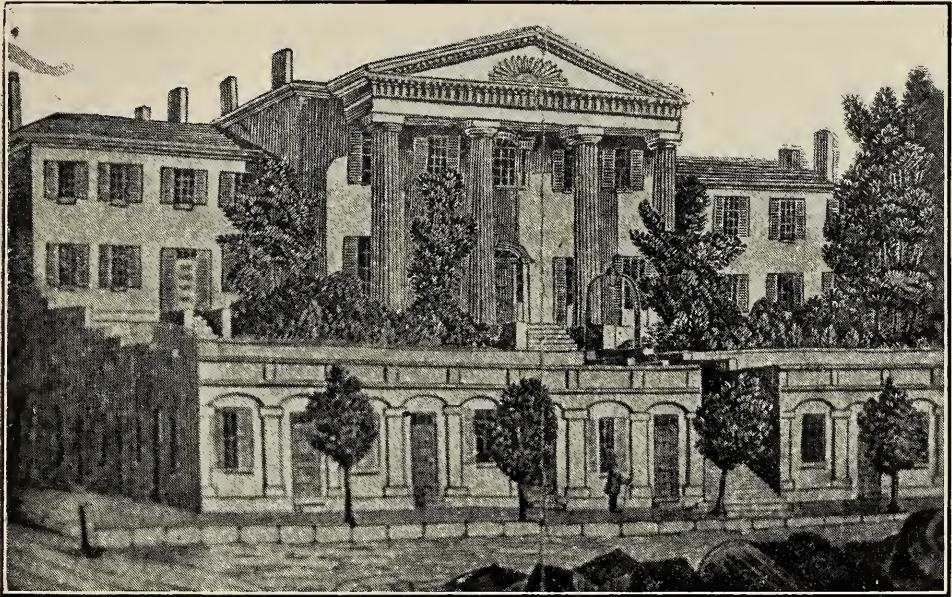
Mr. Stetson represented Charlestown in the legislature of 1826.

David Stetson always retained an interest in Scituate, and at the time of his death in 1833 he owned land in Scituate near the old place, also a pew in the "South Meeting House" (the extra large corner pew at the left of the pulpit) and with his family was a frequent guest of Molly, but Mr. Deane was in error in stating that David owned the homestead. The following is the result of our search for descendants of David and Sarah.

Descendants of David and Sarah Lapham Stetson, the last of the Stetsons to possess the old homestead at George Moore's Pond:

I. **David Stetson**, b. May 17, 1795, d. Oct. 13, 1795.

II. **Charles Stetscn**, b. Oct. 2, 1796, married Rebecca Vose, daughter of Colonel Robert Vose. Charles was first a commission merchant in New Orleans. Later he removed to Cincinnati, Ohio, where for many years he was President of the Ohio Life and Trust Company. He was spoken of as "a man of conspicuous wealth and importance; lover of music and art; a man of the highest social position." (See page 89).



HOME OF CHARLES STETSON, CINCINNATI, OHIO, PREVIOUS
TO 1851

He then built a more modern house, which, in later years, became the "Delmonicos" of Cincinnati.

Late in life, by defalcation of his partner Mr. Stetson lost his estate and from an annual income of \$40,000 became comparatively poor. He graciously and cheerfully accepted a position in the New York Custom House, which position he held to within a month of his death which occurred on March 27th 1872 at the age of seventy-six years.



CAROLINE E. FISKE
 Daughter of Annie Stetson and only
 living grandchild of David and
 Sarah Stetson.



ANNIE STETSON
 Daughter of David and
 Sarah.
 Born 1805.



EDITH E. DEANE
 Daughter of Caroline E. Fiske.
 Taken in Germany when on her wed-
 ding journey.
 See p. 99

III. **Sarah Stetson**, b. Aug. 28, 1798, married John J. Fiske, Esq. of Boston on Oct. 13, 1821, and died Mar. 24 1827 in her 29th year. Mr. Fiske was an uncle of the eminent historian John Fiske, who was named for him. Their children were:

1. Charlotte, married Wm. B. Weston of Milton. There were no children.

2. Sarah, b. Mar. 24, 1827, married Richard Makin of Liverpool, Eng. in 1852 and had

(1) Robert Stetson, born 1853, named for Cornet Stetson, died in infancy.

(2) Henry G., b. Sept. 18, 1854, unmarried, now living at 320 Carlton Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

(3) Richard L., b. Dec. 12, 1857, is a novelist, is married and lives at 204 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn.

Mr. Makin writes that he also has beautiful paintings of David and Sarah Stetson, and that he has recently made a pilgrimage to the home of Cornet Stetson. Mr. Makin now belongs to the family organization.

Sarah Stetson Makin had no grandchildren.

IV. **Mary Stetson**, b. Oct. 13, 1800, died in Charlestown Feb. 19, 1868.

V. **Catherine Stetson**, b. Oct. 22, 1802. Mr. Sawyer says: "These two daughters will be remembered for their great usefulness in the Unitarian Church and benevolent enterprises and institutions of Charlestown."

VI. **Annie Stetson**, b. Mar. 15, 1805, married July 25, 1825 David Lee. They had two children, Robert Edward Lee and Annie Stetson Lee. Their mother, Mrs. Annie Stetson Lee, married for her second husband, John W. Hartwell, Vice-President (acting president) of the Hamilton and Dayton Rail Road, but afterwards President of the Enterprise Insurance Company, at that time the largest insurance company in the Ohio valley. Annie died in 1843 leaving a daughter, Caroline E. Hartwell. Mr. Hartwell later married a lady who became hopelessly insane and Caroline went to live with her uncle Charles Stetson in Cincinnati in the quaint old house shown in the picture on page 91.

About 1851 Charles built a modern home, which in later years became the "Delmonico's of Cincinnati". Annie Lee 2d and Caroline Hartwell lived with their uncle Charles in his beautiful home until they were married.



FRANK AUGUSTUS LEE OF CINCINNATI

Grandson of Annie Stetson. ,Mr. Lee was president of the John Church Co. of New York, Chicago and Cincinnati; also for 25 years president of the Everett Piano Co. of Boston. He is a member of the Stetson Kindred Organization.

The children of (VI) Annie Stetson and David Lee.

1. Robert Edward Lee, b. May 23, 1827, became secretary of the Enterprise Insurance Company, and married in 1850 Virginia Adelle Lodge of Madison, Ind. They had four sons.

(1) Charles Nelson Lee, who died early.

(2) Frank Augustus Lee, b. Nov. 4, 1852, married July 14, 1886 Lillian May Blimm of Newport, Kentucky. He became President of the John Church Piano Company of N. Y., Chicago and Cincinnati, and was also President of the Everett Piano Co. of Boston for 25 years. Their children are

(a) Raymond Cuthbert Lee, b. Aug. 4, 1887. He is a Structural Steel Engineer and married Coreine Ashbrook. Their children are Virginia Ashbrook Lee and Claude Ashbrook Lee.

(b) Elaine Gladys Lee, b. Mar. 24, 1889, married Clifford Greene, President of the Ball Crank Company of Cincinnati. Their children are Lewis Henry Greene and Clifford Greene, Jr.

(3) Edward Robert Lee, b. Dec. 1, 1855 married Laura Statsenberg. He became President and Treasurer of the Ohio Valley Co. of Cincinnati. Their children are

(a) Helen Statsenberg Lee, b. Jan. 13, 1903. She married Lieut. Paul R. M. Miller, U. S. A. now at Fort **Hus-**ton, San Antonio, Texas.

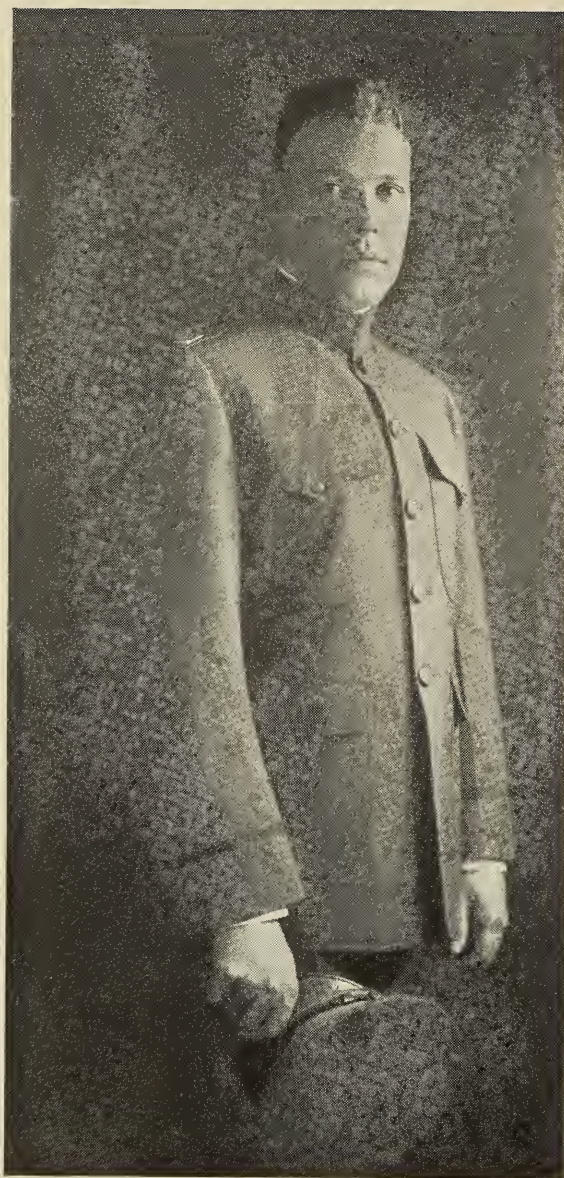
(b) Robert Edward Lee, b. April 18, 1905.

(4) Harry Lamond Lee, b. May 12, 1858. He married Jan. 14, 1886 Emma G. Sampson of Cincinnati. They have one child.

(a) Stuart G., b. Feb. 10, 1887.

2. Annie Stetson Lee 2nd married Wm. Hooper of Cincinnati and died early with her only child.

3. Caroline E. Hartwell, b. Sept. 4, 1843, daughter of Annie Stetson and John W. Hartwell, married William Endicott Fiske, a lieutenant in the Civil War and afterwards a flour and grain merchant.



CAPT. CHARLES E. COTTING



MAJOR FRANCIS T. COLBY

Capt. Cotting is son of the late Charles E. and Ruth Stetson Cotting of Marlborough St. He served in the world war for 16 months, in the Aviation section, until the Armistice was declared. He is now a member of the banking firm Lee Higginson Co., Boston.

Major Colby is the son of Rear Admiral Colby. Maj. Colby had a remarkable experience overseas, serving during the entire war, and under four flags, for a long time as cavalry officer in Belgium. He took part in many important battles and received many decorations. He is now stationed at Honolulu.

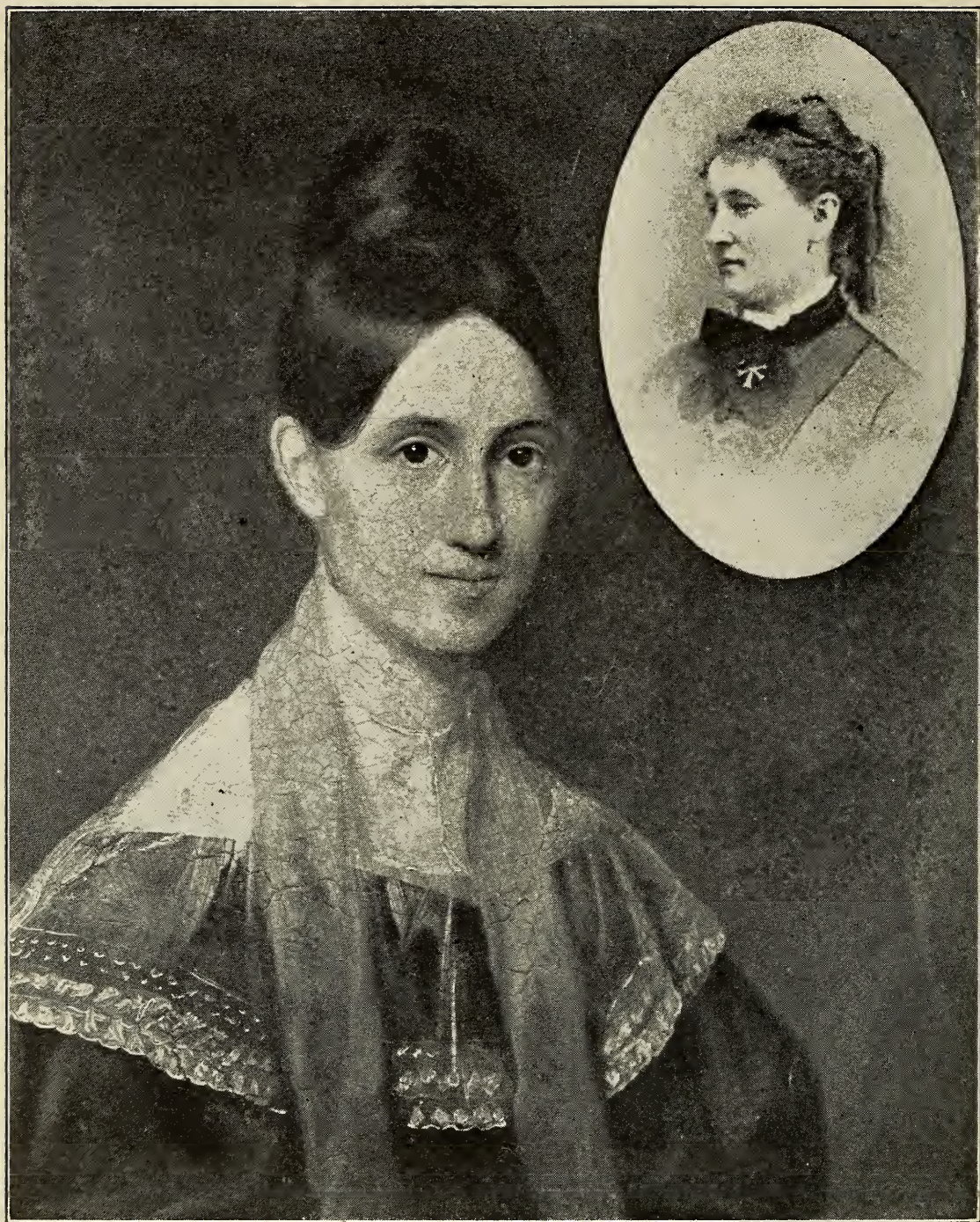


RUTH STETSON COTTING
 Wife of Mr. Chas. E. Cotting
 The third generation to bear the name Ruth Stetson.



MARY CATHERINE COLBY
 Wife of Rear Admiral H. G. O. Colby.
 Mrs. Colby was named for the two unmarried
 daughters of David Stetson.

Only daughters of Ruth Stetson Thompson



RUTH STETSON

Eighth child of David and Sarah; died 1837, aged 28 yrs.
From painting in possession of her grand daughter, Ruth Stetson Cotting,
of Marlborough St., Boston.

RUTH STETSON THOMPSON (inset). Only daughter of Ruth Stetson;
d. 1890.

The children of Caroline E. and Wm. E. Fiske were

- (1) Grace who died in her 6th year.
- (2) Edith Endicott who married Chas. F. Deane, later the owner of Deepwell Park with its beautiful residences at Stamford, Connecticut. Mrs. Deane has a fine sturdy family as follows:
 - (a) Francis, a lawyer, No. 40 Wall St., N. Y. City.
 - (b) Dorothy, now Mrs. Assheton of Warrenton, Va.
 - (c) Kenneth, a cotton merchant of N. Y. City.
 - (d) Thompson, at the head of the New England Boat works at Riverside, Connecticut.
 - (e) Shirley, the youngest daughter, at home.

Mrs. Caroline Endicott Fiske is the only surviving grand child of David and Sarah Stetson and is living at the age of eighty years with her daughter Mrs. Deane at their beautiful home in Stamford. Mrs. Fiske and two of her grand children, i. e. Mrs. Assheton and Kenneth Deane are members of the Stetson organization.

VII. **David Stetson**, b. April 10, 1807, died at sea Nov. 4th, 1831 aged twenty-four years, at the beginning of a promising career as a mariner. At the time of his death he was mate of the ship.

VIII. **Ruth Stetson**, b. May 5, 1809, married May 1, 1834 John P. Welch, Treasurer of the Fitchburg Rail Road, and died April 3, 1837 aged 28 years. They had one daughter.

1. Ruth Stetson Welch who married Francis Thompson of Charlestown. Mr. Thompson was a successful Iron and Steel Manufacturer. He also served as state senator and water commissioner of Boston. They had two daughters. (P. 96, 97)

(1) Mary Catherine, named in honor of her great aunts, the unmarried daughters of David and Sarah Stetson. She married Capt. H. G. O. Colby, U. S. N. Now Rear Admiral Colby of Marlborough St., Boston. They have one son.

(a) Major Francis Thompson Colby, now with his regiment in Hawaii.

(2) Ruth Stetson Thompson, married Charles E. Cotting, a leading real estate dealer. Their only son is

(a) Charles E. Cotting, Jr., member of the firm Lee Higginson Company of Boston, Bankers. Mr. Cotting and his mother are members of the Stetson Kindred organization.



QUINCY BENT

Vice-President of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation

Mr. Bent is grandson of Eleanor Stetson Felton, the 10th child of David and Sarah Stetson, and belongs to the Stetson Kindred Organization.

IX. **Eleanor Stetson**, b. Aug. 4, 1811, d. Aug. 28, 1811

X. **Eleanor Stetson**, b. Aug. 12, 1813, married Samuel M. Felton. Mr. Sawyer says "Mr. Felton was brother of Cornelius M. Felton, President of Harvard University. Mr. Felton graduated from Harvard in 1834 and became a prominent Civil Engineer; was engineer of the Fitchburg R. R., also of the Central Vermont and afterwards President of the Fitchburg. Later he moved from Charlestown to become President of the Phila. Baltimore and Wilmington R. R. becoming one of the most distinguished Rail Road men in the country." Their children were:

1. Annie, who never married.
2. Ellen, married Eben Francis Barker, an official in the Boston Custom House and later Secretary and Treasurer of the Penn. Steel Company. No children.
3. Mary, married Major Luther S. Bent. After a distinguished service in the Civil War Major Bent became President of the Penn. Steel Company. Their children are:

(1) Felton Bent, b. June 26, 1872 at Annisquam, Mass. is Vice President of the Lebanon Iron Company of Penn. and lives at 2121 Walnut St., Phila. Mr. Bent married Helen Darlington and has a daughter.

(a) Nancy Steadman.

(2) Steadman Bent, b. at Thurlow, Pa. June 10, 1876 is a contractor and lives in Overbrook, Pa.

(3) Quincy Bent, b. in Steelton, Pa. July 28, 1879, lives in Bethlehem and is Vice President of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation. He married Deborah Brock and has a son.

(a) Horace Brock Bent.

XI. **Edward Stetson**, b. Mar. 15, 1719. Mr. Barry says in 1847 "On board the U. S. Sloop of War 'Captain Hull' as clerk". In the settlement of an estate in 1857 he signed as "Edward Stetson of Beuna, California. We can learn nothing further of Edward.

These records show that many positions of honor and responsibility are held by descendants of David and Sarah Stetson.

These descendants have an honest pride in their unique ancestor, the Veteran Cornet of the Troopers, and look back with feelings of reverence and affection for "Old Aunt Molly" and the home by "George Moore's Pond" in Scituate, in the Old Colony.



DEMING JARVES

LIEUT. DEMING JARVES

(Selected from his Memoirs)

Some years ago Mr. Deming Jarves of "Val Fleuri" Dinard, France, wrote the editor of the **May Flower Descendants** for information of his mother's ancestors. Mr. Bowman kindly referred him to the secretary of the Stetson Kindred. On investigation we easily found his place in the Cornet's family. We make the following selections from Mr. Jarves' Memoirs.

Lieutenant Deming Jarves Jr., the subject of this sketch, the youngest son of Anna Stetson and Deming Jarves Senior was born in Boston March 3rd 1839.

The summer home of the Jarves Family was at Swamscott by-the-Sea. Swamscott having no harbor, the larger boats were moored beyond the surf, making landing at times extremely difficult: conditions which doubtless helped to develop in young Jarves a taste for the sea. As a boy he frequently made little voyages with the Swamscott fishermen, and at fifteen had a little "sixteen-foot" schooner all of his own. When eighteen his ambition was to become a professional sailor; so his father, perhaps to "try him out" suggested a trip in a "Clipper Ship" around Cape Horn to San Francisco.

As the ship sailed in May they rounded the Cape in the dead of winter, amid snow, hail, ice, gales and tremendous seas prevalent here even in summer.

Being a friend of the captain, and the only passenger, a cabin passenger at that, young Jarves had the freedom of the vessel, and lost no opportunity to become proficient as a sailor, and also acquire practical experience as a navigator.

Mr. Jarves says, "By a peculiar chance the ship was becalmed about 2 o'clock in the afternoon with all sails set about 4 miles directly south of Cape Horn with a bright sun.

"I had put on board the ship on starting a Barneygat Ducking skiff, as I hoped to get a chance of some shooting in California, and as the ship appeared to be stationary, I asked the Captain if I could get overboard with my skiff, and row alongside of the ship. This I did. Although the water looked very calm from the deck, there was still a good deal of motion on the sea, but no breeze showing. I found the flapping of the sails as the ship rose and pitched was forging her along on her course about as fast as I could row. Not wishing to lose my skiff I hailed the captain and asked him to back the main



MRS. DEMING JARVES

top-sail, which he did, and I climbed aboard on a rope to which I fastened the skiff, and the sailors pulled it back on board ship. This incident was recorded on the ship's log."

"At 9 o'clock that night the ship was under close-reefed top-sails and fore staysail, and bucking into a South west gale and a driving snow storm which continued for several days, and it was two weeks from the time I put the skiff over-board, before we passed 50 South of the Pacific."

After several weeks spent at San Francisco and a short stop at Honolulu, they sailed for Hong-Kong, and in the China Sea encountered a typhoon, losing all sails and three top gallant masts. The ship was on her beam ends for over twelve hours.

From Hong-Kong they sailed for Macao and thence to Singapore, where after two weeks stay, Jarves took passage for Calcutta with two Americans on an old fashioned "wall sided" "blunt bowed" American ship that had been on the Asiatic coast for a long time, and whose only recommendations seemed to be that while the crew of thirty were all natives, the officers and the two boys were from old Cape Cod.

They arrived at Calcutta in January 1858 at the very height of the Indian Mutiny, and a trip across India to Lucknow and Bombay was of course impossible. So after a month at Calcutta, he took passage in the steamship "Candia" for Suez via Madras and Ceylon.

The "Candia" was a full-rigged ship carrying royals on each mast. We are sorry that we have not space to relate the many personal experiences and adventures which Mr. Jarves describes in his memoirs.

The scenery on the coast of Ceylon was beautiful beyond description, and in order that he might obtain a better view of the coast, Jarves went aloft and took a position on the fore topsail yard. Hearing a shout from below, he saw that two quarter-masters, one on either side evidently alarmed at the situation were coming into the rigging. This afforded Jarves a fine opportunity to display his seamanship, and climbing down easily into the top, he slipped to the fore-stay, lowered himself by it to the "fore-yard", thence on to the foot rope, and grasping the "fore-top-sail-sheet" lowered himself hand over hand to the deck, leaving his pursuers in the fore-top, to the amazement and delight of the spectators on deck. Later he was invited to the fore-castle, where "they paid the beer."

Arriving at Suez they crossed the desert to Cairo in wagons drawn by camels, climbed the pyramids, visited Alexandria, and the ruins of Memphis, proceeded to Naples, and later after visiting the principal cities of Italy, Germany and Aus-



DEMING JARVES, SENIOR



ANNA STETSON JARVES

Parents of Deming Jarves

tria arrived at Paris at the height of the Second Empire, August 1st 1858.

Paris seemed to hold a special fascination for Mr. Jarves, and he remained here for ten months. Perhaps it was his life at Paris at this time that led him half a century later to make his permanent home at Dinard.

From Paris he went to London, thence to Liverpool, where he embarked for Boston on the Cunard "Paddle Wheel" Steamer "Niagara", and after a passage lasting seventeen days reached Boston, thus finishing his "Trip Round the World."

Deming Jarves senior had served in the New England Guards in the War of 1812. Fifty two years later in 1860, this company was enlarged to a battalion with two companies, and Deming Jarves Jr. was made one of the corporals. When in 1861 the Civil War broke out, this battalion was sent to garrison Fort Independence, and it was here that Jarves had his first artillery practice; he fired a thirty pounder as a salute in honor of the departure of Charles Francis Adams as Minister to England.

In August 1861 Corporal Jarves was appointed 2nd Lieutenant of Company "B" 24th Mass. Infantry, which was one of the companies sent in October to garrison Fort Warren, Boston Harbor. Fort Warren at this time was used as a prison for political and other prisoners, and it so happened that when the "San Jacinto" arrived with Mason and Slydel, Jarves was Officer of the Guard and it became his duty to escort these men to the Fort. During Mr. Jarves' sojourn in Paris he had become acquainted with Mr. Mason, who was at that time U. S. Minister to France, had in fact been a welcome guest at his house, and had often danced with his daughters. Fortunately Lieut. Jarves was not recognized in his uniform, thus saving both parties much embarrassment.

About December 1st his regiment was ordered to Annapolis where he was transferred to the Signal Corps, and ordered to Hatteras Inlet. The schooner in which he sailed owing to an incompetent captain did not arrive at its destination for twenty one days, and was published in the papers of the North as having been lost with all hands on board.

As Signal Officer Lieutenant Jarves served with the 9th Corps in North Carolina and Virginia, and in September 1862 he was ordered to Head Quarters Signal Corps, Washington. He served there until 1863.

Early in April he was ordered to take a Field Telegraph Train just introduced into the army, and report to Head Quarters Army of the Cumberland at Murfreesboro, Tennessee,



MARION JARVES ALGER (Mrs. Russell A.), of Detroit, Mich., and
her children: grandchildren of Gen. Russell A. Alger and
Deming Jarves

The picture was taken many years ago. Mrs. Alger now has two grand
children: great great grand children of Anna Stetson Jarves.

about 40 miles south of Nashville. It consisted of two four-horse wagons containing a new electric machine with 5 miles of insulated electric wire on cylinders in each wagon, making a line of 10 miles. On arriving at Murfreesboro his "command for active service" was organized, consisting of six sergeants and 20 men selected from different regiments, and two "six mule teams" were added.

Later Lieutenant Jarves had a very serious attack of dysentery, and was sent back to the hospital at Manchester, and still later to the "Officer's Hospital" at Nashville. The condition of his health became such that he resigned after two and one half year's service.

While in the Signal Service Lieutenant Jarves was twice offered the position of Lieutenant Colonel of Infantry, which he twice refused, preferring the duties of the Signal Corps which brought him into intimate relations with superior officers.

Lieutenant Jarves married in 1872 in New York Josephine Gregory and had one daughter Marian, now the wife of Russell A. Alger of Detroit, and daughter in law of the late General Russell A. Alger, who was also Governor of Michigan, Secretary of War and U. S. Senator. Mrs. Alger has two daughters, one son and two grand-children, and is a member of the Stetson Kindred of America. (see picture.)

In 1873 Lieutenant Jarves went from New York to Detroit and built up a very successful business of which corporation he was president and manager for thirty years. He then helped to organize the American Agricultural Chemical Co., and was selected for its first president, but being 60 years of age and having "acquired enough worldly goods to be comfortable," he declined and retired to Dinard, France, which he had previously selected for a home. Mrs. Jarves died in 1902 and Mr. Jarves married in 1904 at Rome Miss Eliza Gregory Jackson of Washington, D. C.

Since the World War Mr. Jarves has published a beautiful book for private circulation (limited to 500 copies) written by Mrs. Jarves describing their experiences during the war and their war work in Brittany.

In appreciation of their services Mrs. Jarves received the following decorations from the French Government:

Les Palmes Academiques.

The Silver Medal with one star of the "Reconnaissance Francaise."

Bronze "Medaille de devouement" to the refugees and exiles. She also received the decoration of the Medal of Queen



LIEUT. DEMING JARVES

After leaving the hospital at Nashville, Tenn., in 1864.

Elizabeth of Belgium, given by the King of the Belgians.

Lieut Jarves was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor by the French Government.

Deming Jarves is descended from Cornet Robert Stetson of Scituate via his youngest son Robert Jr. as follows:

(1) Cornet Robert Stetson of Scituate, born 1613, d Feb. 1, 1702-3 and Honor.....?

(2) Robert Stetson Jr. of Pembroke, born in Scituate Jan. 29, 1653 and Susanna Brooks.

(3) Isaac Stetson of Pembroke, born in Scituate about 1678 and Elizabeth Pray.

(4) Abisha Stetson of Hingham, born in Pembroke 1706 and Elizabeth James.

(5) Lemuel Stetson of Boston, born in Hingham Jan. 21, 1731 and Susanna Erving.

(6) Capt. Levi Stetson of Boston, born 1759 and Mary Ames.

(7) Anna Stetson of Boston and Deming Jarves.

(8) Deming Jarves 2nd.

Mr. Barry in his records of the Stetson Family (1847) had not found (5) Lemuel, and credited his children to his brother Gaius, and although Mr. Barry found the marriage of Levi, he had no knowledge of his descendants, so we begin our account with (5) Lemuel.

(5) Lemuel Stetson born January 21st 1731 was the oldest son of "Abisha Stetson Shipwright" and Elizabeth James of Hingham. He married Susanna Erving, Nov. 15, 1757, was a successful builder, and erected many fine buildings in Boston. He may have been associated with his brother John who built the dome of the State House (See Barry Page 95).

(6) Capt. Levi, oldest son of Lemuel (5) and Susanna, married Mary Ames April 20, 1784 (Boston Records). He served as a "bombadier" in the Revolution. After the war he was captain of a coaster, and later made voyages to foreign countries.. He died in Wilmington N. C. Nov. 1806 aged 47 years. (Suffolk Prob. Rec. 105-189.) They had five children. Lydia, William, Maria, Abby and Anna S. Lydia married "Josiah Bacon, Steward of the Marine Hospital at Chelsea." She must have been an exemplary woman for a sketch of her life was published by Hoyt of Cornhill, Boston, for use as a Sunday School book.

Maria and Abby also married but left no children.

(7) William, son of Capt. Levi and Mary, became a sea captain and first commanded a vessel at the age of 19. He commanded a Privateer in 1812, which was captured by the British, and he was taken prisoner to England, where he spent some time in Dartmouth Prison. Later he retired from the sea and became Superintendent of the Glass Works at Sandwich. Capt. William married Sally.....? had a son William and five daughters (i. e.) Lydia B. born in 1829, Catherine C. 1831, Marian 1833, Charlotte 1835, Frances 1839. These daughters we have not followed.

(8) William Stetson Jr., son of Capt. William of Sandwich and Sally was born at Sackett's Harbor, New York, Feb. 1821. Graduated from Andover Academy. Married Ann M. W. Forster and is survived by one son, i. e.

(9) Thomas E. Stutson* of West Newton, Mass. who is an importer on Pearl Street, Boston, has a fine family of girls, but evidently is destined to be the last in the line of Lemuel and Levi to bear the name of Stetson.*

(7) Anna Stetson sister of Capt. William and the youngest daughter of Captain Levi (6) married in 1815 Deming Jarves and had nine children. Only three of these have descendants living, i. e., Anna-Maria, Mary, and Deming Jarves Junior.

(8) Anna Maria Jarves married Oliver Brewster and has living one son Mr. William Brewster of 302 Marlborough St., Boston who is a lineal descendant of Elder Brewster of the Mayflower. Mr. Brewster is unmarried.

(8) Mary married Fred H. Higginson and has living at 73 Seaver Street, Brookline, Mass. three grandsons, all of whom served in the Navy in the late World War, and also one grand-daughter Mrs. Katherine H. Johnson of Atlantic Avenue, Cohasset, Mass. Mrs. Johnson is a member of the Stetson Kindred of America.

(8) Deming Jarves Jr. (see sketch). Mr. Jarves lives on his beautiful estate in "Val Fleuri" Dinard, France, in his eighty-sixth year and the best of health. Mr. Jarves and Mrs. Alger are enthusiastic members of the Stetson Kindred organization.

*This family has continued to use one of the ancient forms of spelling now almost obsolete.

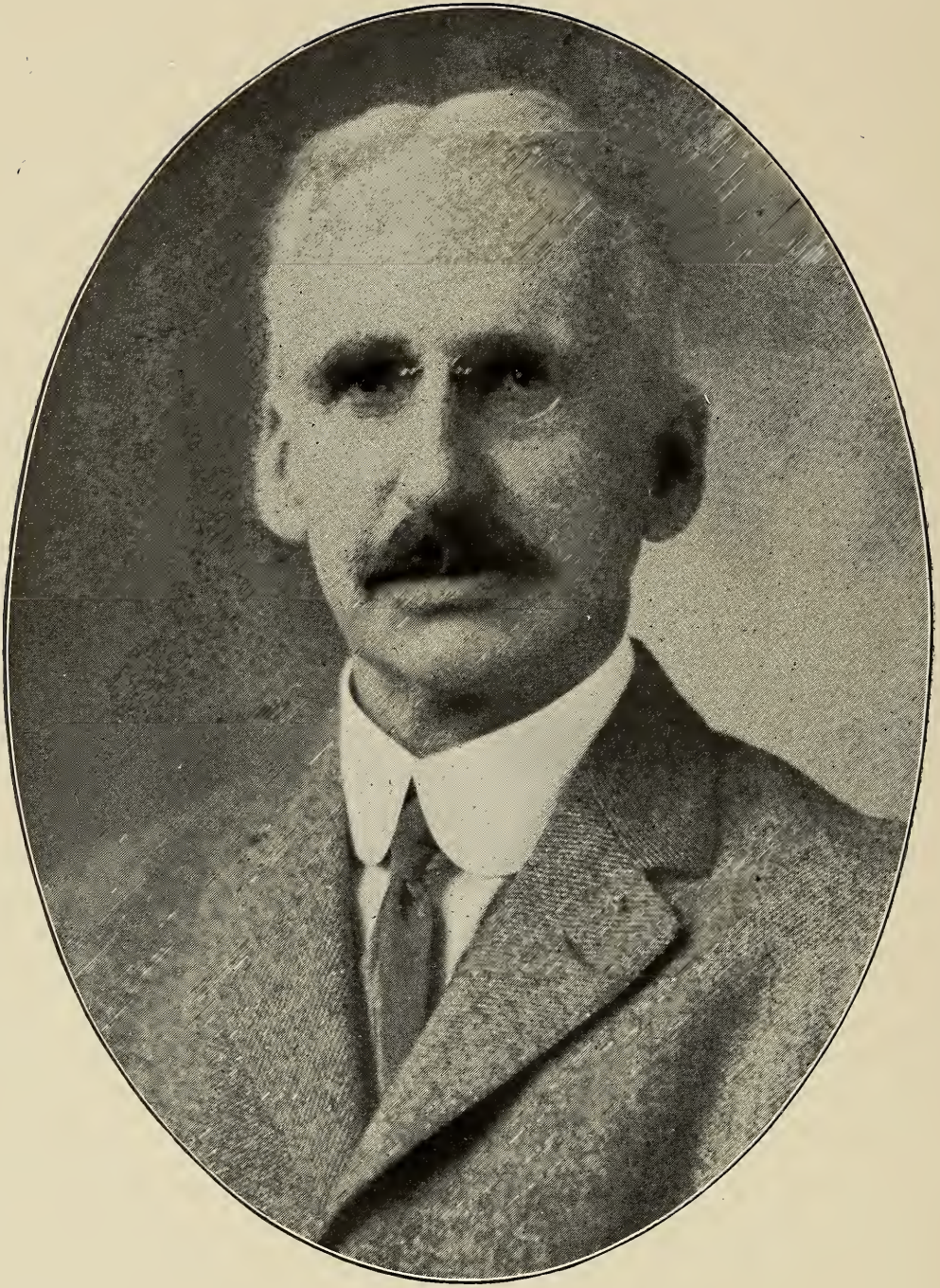
TO THE STETSON KINDRED ORGANIZATION

The cost of publishing Booklet No. 6 has exceeded \$1,000. This has been paid by contributions from members. The following have contributed \$100 each: Col. Isaiah K. Stetson of Bangor (Joseph), Capt. John B. Stetson of Phila. (Robert), Mr. Albert L. Stetson of Los Angeles (Sam'l.), Mr. Deming Jarves, Dinard, France (Robert), Mr. Alonzo W. Perry of Boston (John and Eunice). The balance has been paid by smaller contributions of from \$1.00 to \$25.00. As the secretary receives no compensation for compiling the books, perhaps his services might also be considered a contribution (representing Capt. Benjamin and Joseph).

Our income (annual dues) is small for we must remember that some are life members, others have died and still others are (don't mention it) a trifle slow in meeting their obligations; however, with the aid of new members and the occasional sale of booklets, we manage to keep the annual income approximately \$300. and a small balance in the treasury. One hundred dollars was recently received for standing wood on the homestead.

Our income is expended in taxes (this year \$87.51), repairs (\$300 in 1920), insurance, printing, stationery, postage, and expense attending annual meetings. Occasionally we have spent small sums to procure valuable information for the coming **Stetson Family Records** and have also several times contributed toward publication of the booklets.

NELSON M. STETSON, Secretary and Treasurer



COL. ISAIAH K. STETSON, BANGOR, ME.

President of the Stetson Kindred Organization

Col. Stetson, one of the last of the Bangor ship builders, is a graduate of Yale and Treasurer of the University of Maine. He has served as State Senator and Speaker of the House; is President, and his son, Irving, Vice-President of the First National Bank of Bangor.

Report of Annual Reunions of the Stetson Kindred of America

We will not give the dry details of these meetings as they are recorded, but simply a few of the most important incidents that may be of interest to the Kindred.

The **Thirteenth Annual Reunion** held at the "shrine" Saturday, Aug. 18, 1917 was notable as being the last meeting attended by our former president and benefactor, Francis Lynde Stetson. After the dinner which was provided by our absent president Lt. John B. Stetson Jr. the secretary's report of the last meeting was read, and also a letter from the president extending greetings to the Kindred, and stating that having enlisted at the prospect of war, he had now been "called to the Colors," received his commission as "Lieutenant in the Aviation Corps," and would be obliged to forego the pleasure of meeting with the Kindred this year.

Past President Francis Lynde Stetson welcomed the Kindred. Referring to the secretary's record of the last meeting, he stood by his former statement that "It is not so much the duty of a Stetson mother to raise a soldier, as a Christian gentleman," but added "We are now at war, soldiers are needed and our watchword should be "Onward Christian Soldiers." He believed in "unhesitating support of the war" and repeated his statement of the previous year "Love is the universal solvent" adding "By love alone can the results bring good to the nations; love the mightiest instrumentality in advancement of the human race." He then introduced Mr. Eugene W. Stetson of Macon, Georgia, a descendant of Captain Benjamin Stetson, and a new member of the organization, who had recently been chosen to fill the very responsible position of Vice President of the Guaranty Trust Company of N. Y. City. Mr. Stetson told us of his grandfather's removal nearly a century ago from Cohasset in the Old Colony, to Georgia, and of the service of his father and uncle in the Confederate cause. He related that his Uncle William who had been wounded at Vicksburg, and was very bitter toward his Northern relatives had, before his death especially requested Mr. Stetson to meet with his people in the North at



HON. JOHN GODFREY SAXE, OF N. Y. CITY

Senator Saxe, grandson of the poet, was formerly Counsel to Governor McGlyn of N. Y. He is descended from Cornet Stetson in two lines.

their annual meeting, and assure them that the past was all forgotten.

Mr. Stetson next introduced Senator John G. Saxe, grandson and namesake of the poet. Senator Saxe is also a member of the Stetson Kindred, being descended from the Cornet in two lines. Senator Saxe spoke in part as follows:

"Mr. Chairman and fellow Kinsmen: I believe that I am a Stetson on two sides: but hasten to assure you that I am not a two-sided Stetson.

Romance is reality at long distance. Conversely the exaggerated gift of critical analysis oft times causes the possessor to succeed, though usually at the expense of his friends. The men who have made the most conspicuous successes in life however, are those who have combined criticism with construction; brilliancy with sympathy; ability with charity; wisdom with love; such a man is our Stetson chief, Mr. Francis Lynde Stetson, who since I first met him twenty years ago has been to me not only a Kinsman and a friend but a patron saint.

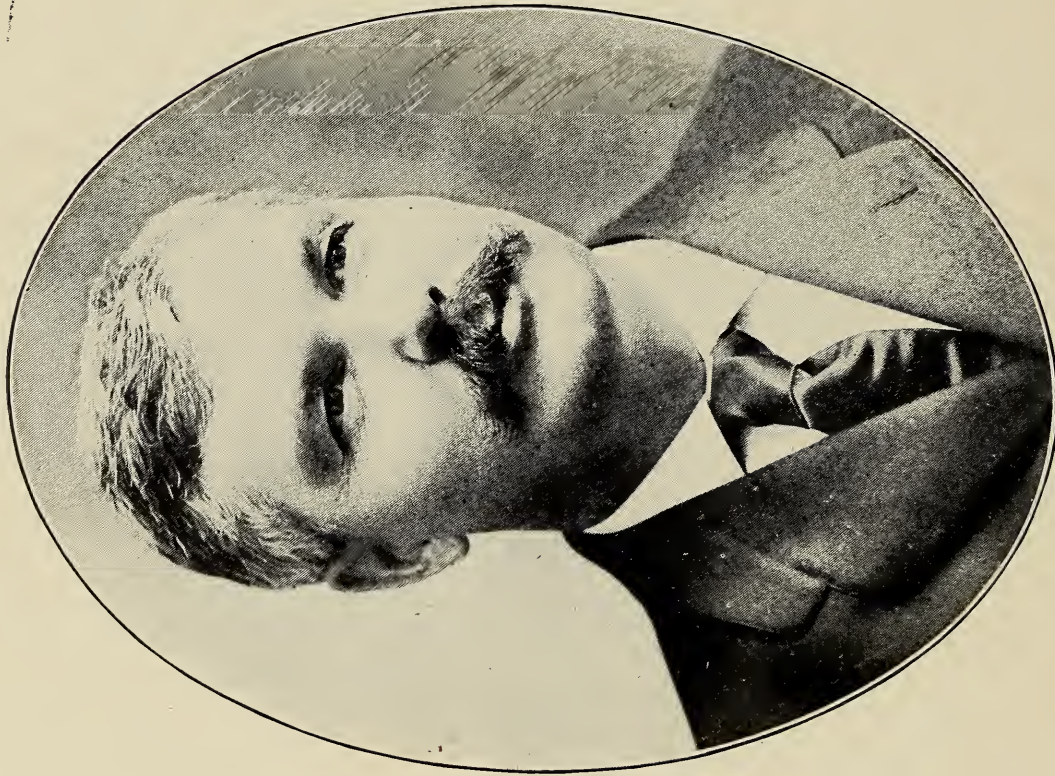
You remember the story of Icarus, son of Daedalus a carpenter of Athens.

'Now Daedalus the Carpenter had
Made a pair of wings
Contrived of wood and feathers and
A cunning set of springs,
By means of which the wearer could
Ascend to any height,
And sail about among the clouds
As easy as a kite.'

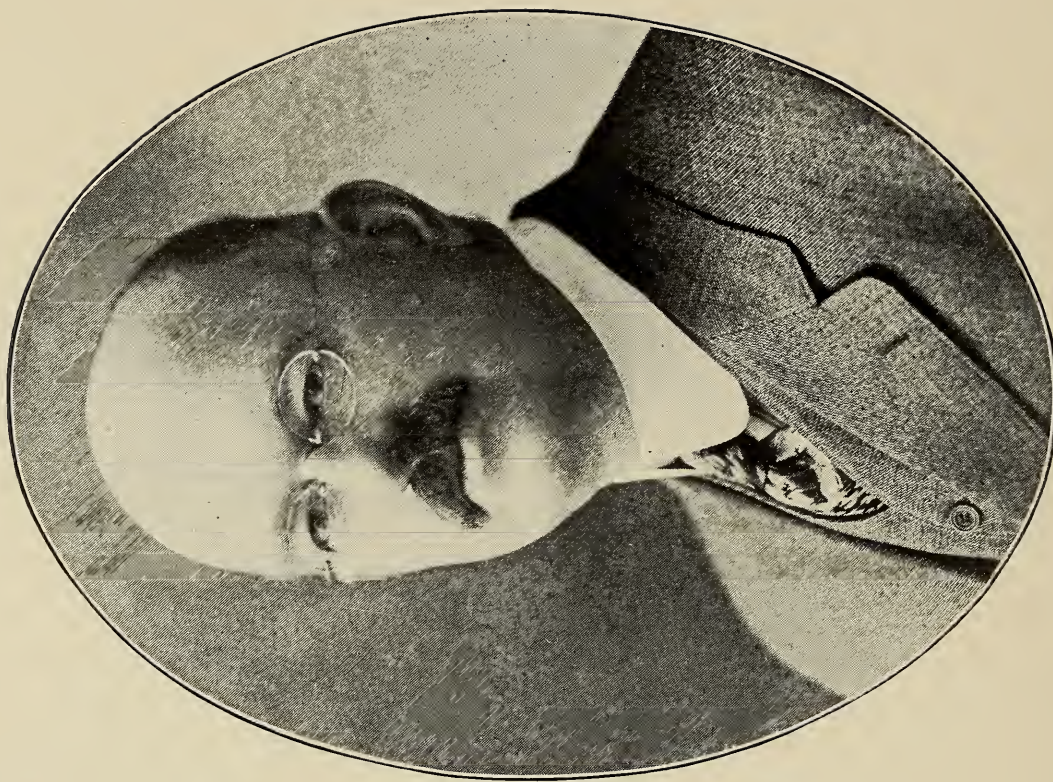
Icarus stole the wings, fastened them on with wax, attempted to fly. The sun melted the wax. Icarus fell and was killed. The poet ended this tragic tale as follows:

'The moral of this mournful tale
Is plain enough to all.
Don't get above your proper sphere
Or you may chance to fall.
Remember too, that borrowed plumes
Are most uncertain things,
And never try to scale the sky
With other people's wings.'

Following my grandfather's injunction, I have endeavored to avoid purloining the lustre of our distinguished cousin, but I have continuously found his character and achievements an inspiration and his advice a guiding star."



GEORGE W. STETSON, MIDDLEBORO, MASS.
 Mr. Stetson is Referee in Bankruptcy for Plymouth County. He is a director of the Stetson Kindred, and descendant of Joseph.



HORACE T. FOGG, NORWELL, MASS.
 Mr. Fogg is Treasurer of Plymouth County. He is a director of the Stetson Kindred, and a descendant of Capt. Benj. Stetson.

Mr. Henry A. Turner who was in his ninetieth year, then told us his annual funny story,—this year it was the “turtle story” Dr. Phillips of New Haven said that although a Stetson only in behalf of his wife and children, he had come to look forward with much pleasure to his annual holiday with the Stetson Kindred.

Cousin Geo. C. Turner read a very interesting paper “The Connection of Cornet Stetson with the South Parish Church.”

At the business meeting resolutions were adopted on the death of Hon. Daniel E. Damon, long a valuable member of the board of directors. On motion of Cousin Amos A. Phelps the secretary was instructed to send the following message to our absent president:

“A message of deep regret at his absence from the meeting, a message of gratitude for his kindly hospitality extended this day to the Kindred, a message of pride that he had heard the call of his country and responded like a true Stetson, a message of hope and confidence, that his services with those of all our loyal countrymen will be crowned with complete success.”

After the meeting had adjourned and many of the Kindred were well on their homeward way, a delayed telegram offering patriotic resolutions, was received by the secretary from Colonel Raymond Cay of Jacksonville, Florida. Col. Cay for many years Colonel of the Florida Home Guards, and a typical southern gentleman of the old school, had become an enthusiastic member of the Stetson organization, being descended in two lines from the Cornet via his mother Eliza Ann Stetson of New Bedford.

Saturday, Aug. 17, 1918, the date of the **Fourteenth Annual Meeting** of the Stetson Kindred found our country in the midst of the most critical and uncertain period of the greatest war in the world's history. Our president on the fighting line in France, and our vice president unable to be with us. Seventy-five of the Kindred, however, met as usual, Joshua Stetson Gray of the executive committee presiding. Mr. Gray introduced as first speaker Judge Albert E. Avery of Braintree, judge of the District Court of E. Norfolk, who with his family was present for the first time. Judge Avery joined the organization at once and it became evident that we had acquired a very useful member.

The next speaker was Rev. Dr. Ebenezer Thompson of Sarasota, Florida. Dr. Thompson had come north to attend the commencement exercises of Brown University, it being the 50th Anniversary of his graduation. He eloquently described his pilgrimage to the Stockbridge Mansion at Scituate, the home of



CAPTAIN JOHN B. STETSON, JR., PHILA., PENN.

Vice-President (Past President) of Stetson Kindred Organization

Maker of Stetson Hat. Capt. Stetson served fifteen months as an aviator in France. He was made a captain and at the time of the Armistice was Acting Major.

his grandparents, Dr. Chas. Stockbridge, and his wife, Elinor Stetson, and also his visit to Church Hill where is the grave of his great grandfather, Rev. Ebenezer Thompson, rector of St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Scituate, 1740.

All of this the doctor told us, but unfortunately he followed too closely the secretary's injunction on the invitations to "be brief" and cut short his very interesting remarks. It was the doctor's farewell visit. He died soon after his return to Florida.

Rev. Caleb R. Stetson of St. Mark's, Washington, D. C. (now rector of Trinity Church, N. Y. City) was unexpectedly with us for an hour, but found it necessary to hasten away without awaiting an opportunity to address the Kindred; this was much regretted as Rev. Caleb and Mrs. Stetson are both descended from the Cornet, and it was their first pilgrimage to the "shrine."

Mr. James Mackaye of Cambridge told of recent discoveries on the Braintree records of very interesting and amusing incidents in his family history.

The other speakers were nearly all local members of the organization and regular visitors at the shrine. Of course we didn't have the usual number of cousins from a distance, and ate our lunches from baskets instead of enjoying the elaborate dinners, generously provided in former years by our president and vice president, but the ice cream and coffee were excellent, and the quartette at its best, and in spite of the fact that it was an "off year" the "picnic" was a pleasant success.:

On Saturday, August 16th, 1919, a little company of descendants of the "Veteran Cornet of the Troopers" met for their **Fifteenth Annual picnic** at their "shrine" and celebrated the 285th anniversary of the Cornet's settlement in Scituate.

After luncheon the president, Captain John B. Stetson, Jr. recently from France, opened the meeting with the unwelcome announcement of the very serious illness of our beloved past president Francis Lynde Stetson with whom he had spent an hour on his way to the meeting.

Mr. Stetson sent his love and best wishes, regretting very much his inability to be present. A message was returned assuring him of the appreciation of his "untiring service to his Kinsmen and the Country" with "the sincere hope that he might soon resume his activities."

Captain Stetson told of his fifteen months' experience as an aviator in France, where he held important positions as organizer and instructor.



ELLERY JUSTIN STETSON, CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS, N. Y.

A member of the Stetson Kindred Organization. Killed in action Oct. 11, 1918, in "No Man's Land," France. See sketch.

Owing to R. R. troubles, few trains were running in New England on the morning of our festival, and among those who were prevented from attending the meeting, was Mr. Percy Mackaye, a member from Cornish, N. H., who had purposed to be present with his family. The following is from a letter, previously sent to the secretary via the poet's brother, Mr. James Mackaye:

"Under the circumstances then, all I can do is to send my very hearty regrets to those present, and my hopes that on another year, I shall have better luck. I am also sending you herewith, a printed account of the work in painting of our Kinsman, the late Charles Walter Stetson, in whose genius as an artist we should all feel a peculiar pride. I have recently had the privilege of seeing some of his paintings, and of possessing one which I had hoped to bring with me to show to those present, and I would suggest that no finer or more appropriate action could be taken by the Kindred than to express in some way to Mrs. Stetson our appreciation of her husband's noble powers as an artist.

With renewed expression of my keen regret and disappointment at being prevented from attending the gathering on August sixteenth, and hoping for some opportunity, before long, of meeting you personally, believe me,

Very heartily, your Kinsman,

PERCY MACKAYE"

At this time announcement was made of the death of Ellery Justin Stetson of Cambridge Springs, N. Y., a member of The Stetson Kindred organization. Ellery was killed in "No Man's Land" in France on Oct. 11, 1918. He had graduated from Alleghany College, and Western Reserve Law School at Cleveland, and had been a successful attorney for about five years when he was sent almost directly from his office to the front. His first experience in "going over the top" occurred about October 4th. On this occasion he had captured a German single handed and helped to take two other prisoners. After seven long months his widowed mother received the first particulars of her son's death in a letter from Captain Lusk, who spoke of Ellery as "a brave soldier and charming gentleman and companion." Later Mrs. Stetson received a letter from the Red Cross in France, from which the following extracts are taken:

Sergeant Homer K. Hewitt of Headquarters Company 320th Infantry, says, "Stetson was killed while taking a message to Battalion Headquarters—was an orderly"—"was hit by a 'whiz bang' and killed instantly"—"was the bravest man in his company"—"the boys marvelled at his luck for he went about under heavy shell fire at all times"—"He was buried at Nantillais."



PROF. GRAYDON STETSON OF SALEM, MASS.
Our latest director. Trustee of Boston University,
President Salem Trust Company. Descendant of
Sergeant Samuel.



HON. JOHN W. STETSON, OAKLAND, CALIF.
State Senator and City Attorney of Oakland. Sudden
death prevented Mr. Stetson from keeping his
promise to meet with his kindred at the Shrine,
Aug. 20. Descendant of Thomas.

Another, also from the Red Cross, says, "Sergeant Captain L. L. Nottingham Jr. 320th Infantry reports 'Stetson was acting as 'Liaison legent' between Captain Lusk of the 'One Pounders' and Major commanding the First Battalion and had taken cover in a shell hole with Capt. Lusk. We were being heavily shelled—a shell exploded near, killing Private Stetson and wounding Captain Lusk." Captain Lusk reported that "Stetson showed the greatest bravery under fire, and seemed absolutely unconscious of any danger. Captain Nottingham was an eye witness."

At college Ellery had been a popular member of the athletic association and his college fraternity. He was 6 ft. 2 in. in height, and with very little training became a model soldier. He was soon selected by his captain for clerk and orderly. Mrs. Stetson recently received from the War Dept. official notice that her son had been cited "For gallantry in action near the Cunel Briulles Road, Oct. 11th, 1918."

The Sixteenth Annual Reunion, held on Saturday, Aug. 21st 1920, differed from any previous meeting of the organization. The forced absence of our president and very serious illness of our past president seemed to cast a gloom over the meeting, however, about the usual number were present, and with lively Cousin Joshua Stetson Gray at the helm, the meeting became as it were a "neighborhood sociable."

There were few cousins from a distance and the diffident ones, free from restraint, came forward with local reminiscence while we sang the old familiar songs and ate our lunch.

At the **Seventeenth Annual Reunion** of the Stetson Kindred, held at the old homestead, Saturday, Aug. 20th, 1921, resolutions were adopted commemorating the death of our first president, Francis Lynde Stetson, to whom more than any other we owe the founding and success of our organization.

Captain John B. Stetson declined to serve longer as president and nominated Colonel Isaiah K. Stetson of Bangor, Maine who being elected agreed to serve provided Captain Stetson would serve as vice president.

Mr. Stetson Humphrey, a recent addition to the organization was present with members of his family, representing the descendants of Gen. Charles A. Stetson, the landlord of the old Astor House, N. Y. Mr. Humphrey is director of the Boston Music School Settlement, and entertained the Kindred, with vocal and instrumental selections, being assisted by a number of his pupils.

Other members present for the first time were Mr. E. H. Stetson of Weymouth, the maker of the "Stetson Shoe" and Mr. J. Walter Stetson, Treasurer of Mechanics Savings Bank, Auburn, Maine.

On Saturday Aug. 20th, 1922 The Stetson Kindred met at the pavilion and held their **Eighteenth Annual Meeting**. Regardless of the heavy thunder showers that began at sunrise and continued at intervals through the day, the meeting was one of the most enjoyable. Although the tempest raged outside the commodious pavilion provided ample shelter for all. Col. Isaiah from Bangor and Capt. John B. from Philadelphia were both present with their ladies. Among those who addressed the meeting were County Commissioner, Frederic T. Bailey of Scituate, Prof. Luther Weston Turner of Pottstown, Pa., and Mr. Waldo Turner of Weymouth, all members of the old Turner family of Scituate and recent members of the Kindred.

Perhaps the most gratifying feature of the meeting was the sudden awakening of this distinguished family to the fact that they are descended in three lines from Cornet Robert Stetson and have even greater reason for affiliation with the Stetson organization than most of those who still bear the name.

The other speakers were Mr. John Stetson Edmands of Somerville, Mass., Mrs. Lora A. Underhill of Brighton and Mr. Walter K. Macfarlane of Brown University, representing the Stetson family of Seattle, Washington.

Mr. Graydon Stetson of Boston was chosen a director to fill the vacancy caused by the death of his father, Mr. John A. Stetson.

Mr. Alonzo W. Perry of Rockland was unable to be present but "made good" by requesting Caterer Damon to supply the company with Ice Cream, Hot Coffee, and other refreshment at his expense.

Mr. Stetson Humphrey, Director of the Boston Music School Settlement was again with us, and with his little company of musical prodigies from the school, furnished a much appreciated entertainment.

It was a very enthusiastic and congenial company of sixty-five that braved the storm to honor their beloved Ancestor, "Robert Studson" The Unique Veteran Cornet, of the Plymouth Colony Troopers.

The Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Stetson Kindred was held at the Old Homestead in Norwell (S. Scituate) Mass. on Saturday, August 18, 1923.

At the business meeting the secretary's report was read by his daughter, Miss Clara Silsby Stetson. The following communications from absent members were also read.

A cablegram from vice president Capt. John B. Stetson Jr. from Havana. A telegram from the Stetsons of Seattle, Wash. and letters from Mr. Percy Mackaye, Rev. Caleb Stetson, Rector of Trinity Church N. Y., and Prof. Harlan T. Stetson of Harvard University.

The following officers were then chosen for the ensuing year.

PRESIDENT

Col. Isaiah K. Stetson of Bangor, Me.

VICE PRESIDENT

Capt. John B. Stetson Jr. of Philadelphia, Pa.

SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Nelson M. Stetson of Campello, Mass.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Joshua Stetson Gray of Rockland, Mass.

Fred C. Haskins of Norwell, Mass.

Nelson M. Stetson of Campello, Mass.

DIRECTORS

the above and

Dr. Frederick W. Stetson of Boston, Mass.

Geo. W. Stetson, Esq. of Middleboro, Mass.

E. Eugene Stetson of Norwell, Mass.

Hon. Horace T. Fogg of Norwell

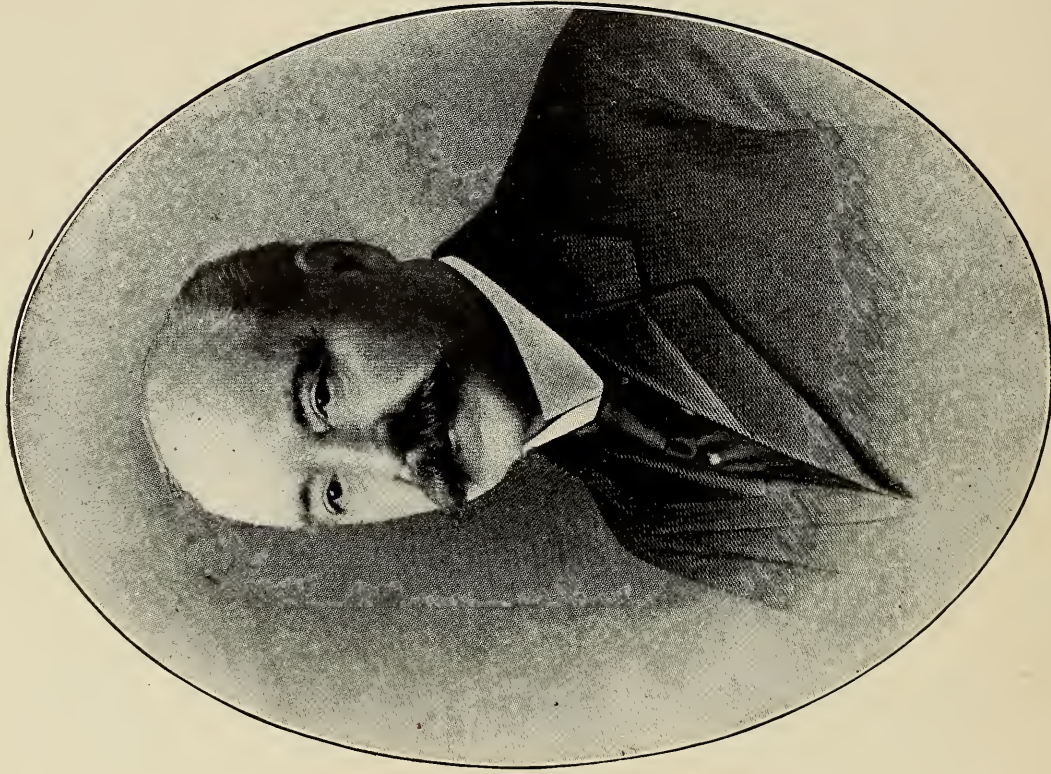
A. W. Perry of Rockland, Mass.

Prof. Graydon Stetson of Boston, Mass.

The organization is very fortunate in having for its presiding officer Col. Stetson, who presided over the august assembly without apparent embarrassment, due doubtless to his former experience as Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives.

The president and vice president had invited all present to be their guests at the Clam Bake, and the preparation of the clams, lobsters, corn and sweet potatoes on the hot stones and steaming seaweed, proved a novelty to many who had never before witnessed a Clam Bake.

When chairs for the accommodation of one hundred and fifty guests had all been filled, Dr. Phillips of New Haven offered prayer and the dinner was served.



ALONZO W. PERRY, ROCKLAND, MASS.

A Director of the Stetson Kindred Organization.

Mr. Perry was formerly owner of the Plant Steamship Co. Beginning as a poor boy he is now one of Boston's largest tax payers. Both Mr. and Mrs. Perry are descended from the Cornet's son, Ensign John. Mr.



MRS. ISADORA (FRENCH) PERRY

A beautiful woman, universally beloved and respected.

Beginning as a poor boy he is now one of Boston's largest tax payers. Both Mr. and Mrs. Perry are descended from the Cornet's son, Ensign John. Mr.

Descendant of Eunice, the Cornet's only daughter.

One of the after dinner speakers was Prof. Henry Turner Bailey, Director of the Cleveland School of Art. Mr. Bailey was proud of his three lines of descent from Cornet Stetson. Speaking of the many virtues of our Pilgrim ancestors he took occasion to show up by a series of novel and very amusing illustrations, their failings as well as their virtues.

Mrs. Sally T. Brown was another member of this Scituate family with three Stetson lines. She evidently felt at home in the family circle, and considered the Cornet the most unique and interesting of all her Pilgrim fathers.

When the stalwart form of the "Old Colony" Referee in Bankruptcy, Mr. Geo. W. Stetson of Middleboro, stepped forward and looked down upon his surrounding cousins, from a height of six feet three, they all smiled. Mr. Stetson's remarks though brief left his hearers in a very happy frame of mind for several minutes.

Mr. Ralph C. Estes, an Attleboro lawyer, recognized in the previous speaker, one before whom he had pleaded for some unfortunate client, and rejoiced to know that he was of the same family. He explained that upon discovering himself a member of the clan, he had hastened to do homage with his cousins at the shrine.

Mr. Willis Kimball Stetson, Librarian of the New Haven Public Library, related that his father had been born in the little house at the head of the lane. Mr. Stetson had been the first in his line to be born outside of Scituate.

Mr. Charles Wyllis Stetson, President of the Lawyer's Ins. and Title Company of Washington, D. C., traveling with his family in N. Y. state motored across Massachusetts to meet with his kindred. Mr. Stetson explained that he belonged to a roving family, one generation had lived in Ohio, another in Honolulu and the present generation in Virginia. It was remarked that Mr. Stetson had the manner of the "Southern gentleman", a "Virginian" perhaps, but evidently much enjoyed this visit to the home of his ancestors.

Mr. McCarthy, the district member of the legislature "came as a friend." He gave the clan some very wholesome advice, and the encore that followed his remarks was his assurance that he surely was among friends.

Cousin Stetson Humphrey and his little band of musicians were tardy. They had wandered from "Philip's path" and became entangled among the crooked lanes and by ways of the

Old Colony. When at last they did appear, they spent so much time with the clams, lobsters, corn and sweet potatoes that there wasn't time for the usual number of selections, however Cousin Humphrey has promised to make it all up next year.

All the speakers (excepting Mr. McCarthy) were members of the Kindred and all (including Mr. McCarthy) were present for the first time.

At the last minute Dr. Fred W. Stetson of Boston reminded us that we hadn't said Thank you, and on his motion a formal vote of thanks was given the donors of the Clam Dinner.

The weather had been perfect. The dinner was perfect. Every one seemed perfectly happy. It was really and truly the end of a perfect day.

NELSON M. STETSON, Secretary



CLARA SILSBY STETSON

Age 12 Years

A charter member who has been present at every meeting. Clara is daughter of the secretary and the ninth generation from the Cornet via both Captain Benjamin and Joseph.

Members of the Stetson Kindred Organization

A list of all who have joined the Stetson Kindred organization, with name of the Cornet's son from whom they are descended

Many of these names represent several families: others whole colonies of Stetsons.

- Alger, Mrs. Marian Jarves (via Robert) wife of Russell A. Alger, Jr. and daughter-in-law of Gen. Russell A. Alger (Sec. of War, Governor of Mich., U. S. Senator, etc.) Grasse Pointe Farms, Mich.
- Allebach, Leroy, (via Eunice) Attorney for K. M. R. R. Charlestown, West Va.
- *Allen, Sarah (via Thomas) wife of Lieut. Geo. H., for 50 years clerk of Ancient and Hon. Artillery Co. of Boston, Hanover, Mass.
- Anderson, Amos W. Stetson (via Joseph) Granite Mfr. Portland, Me.
- Andross, Harry T. (Joseph) Grocer Lisbon, N. H.
- Annegers, Elmira Carmen, Ill.
- Assheton, Mrs. Dorothy D. (via Joseph) Warrenton, Va.
- Avery, Albert E. (via Joseph) Judge of District Court of E. Norfolk, "Larchmont" E. Braintree, Mass.
- Bailey, Frederic T., (via Benj. 3 lines) County Commissioner Plymouth County Scituate, Mass.
- Bailey, Henry Turner (via Benj. 3 lines) Director Cleveland School of Art Cleveland, Ohio
- Baker, Caroline L., (via Joseph) Merchant Plattsburg, N. Y.
- *Barnard, Mrs. Esther F. (Joseph) Lynn, Mass.
- Barnes, Mrs. Hannah (via Thomas) Mr. Barnes Savings Bank Treasurer Plymouth, Mass.
- *Barrell, Mrs. Hannah Stetson, age 82, (via Joseph) Lawrence, Mass.
- Barry, Charles H. (via Joseph) Chicago, Ill.
- Barry, Esther Stetson, Clerk, (via Joseph), Daughter of historian Rev. John Stetson Barry, N. Winton, Mass.
- Barsett, Walter Gordon (via Joseph) Goffstown, N. Y.
- *Bates, Mrs. Fanny S. W. (via Joseph) Hanover, Mass.
- Bates, Sarah C. Stetson (via Samuel) S. Hanover, Mass.

* Deceased

- * Bates, Marcia P. (via Robert) Bridgewater, Mass.
Bates, Alma P. (via Samuel) S. Hanover, Mass.
* Belcher, Henry Alden, (via Joseph), Retired Randolph, Mass.
Bent, Mary R. Stetson (via Joseph) Walpole, Mass.
Bent, Quincy (Joseph) Vice President Bethlehem Steel Co.,
Bethlehem, Pa.
* Bickford, Mrs. Scott F. (Capt. Benjamin) Brookline, Mass.
Brand, Mrs. Frances Chamberlain, (via Ensign John two lines and
Capt. Benjamin one) Portrait Painter..... Hanover, Mass.
Briggs, Frank H., Major Vol. Militia (via Sgt. Samuel) 7 years
mem. Com. Council. Boston, Mass.
Brooks, John F. (Joseph and Samuel) Merchant, Hanover, Mass.
* Brooks, Wm. J., (via Samuel) Clerk..... Milton, Mass.
Brown, Stella J., (via Benjamin) Wife W. G. Brown, M. D.
Plymouth, Mass.
Brown Mrs. Hattie Stetson (via Joseph) Waterville, N. Y.
Brown, Mrs Sara Tilden Bailey (Benj. 3 lines) Mr. Brown Supt. of
Public Works, Quincy, Mass.
Bryant, Mrs. M. B. (via Joseph) Manchester, N. H.
Buck, Mrs. Elizabeth Stetson (via Thomas) Berkley, Calif.
Burr, Mrs. E. B. (via Thomas) San Francisco, Calif.
Carpenter, Mrs. Ellen W. (via Joseph) Principal of Chicago School,
Oak Park, Ill.
Cay, Col. Raymond (Robert and Sgt. Samuel) U S. A. retired,
Valdosta, Georgia
Cay, John David (Robert and Sgt Samuel) Tallahassee, Florida
* Cheney, Mrs. Augusta Briggs (via Joseph) Kingston, Mass.
* Church, Samuel H. (Joseph, Benj. Thomas) Selectman 12 years,
Hanover, Mass.
Churchill, Wm. F. (Sgt. Samuel) Whitman, Mass.
Churchill, Howard L. (Sgt. Samuel) Mattapan, Mass.
Clapp, Clift Rogers (via Eunice) Lawyer Boston Mass.
Clapp, Fred B. (via Joseph twice and Capt. Benj. once) Professional
Nurse Somerville Mass.
* Clapp, Mrs. Susan R. (via same as above) Somerville, Mass.
Cluett, Mary Stetson (via Robert) ... Wyndwood, Saranac Lake, N. Y.
Cluett, George B. 2nd (via Robert) .. Wyndwood, Saranac Lake, N. Y.
Cochran, David Stetson (via Robert and Samuel) 2 yrs. old
Tallahassee, Fla.
Colby, Mrs. L. W. (via Thomas) Manchester, N. H.
Coleman, Mrs. Edith Stetson (Capt. Benj.) Millidgeville, Ga.
Collamore, Mrs. Cornelia (via Sgt Samuel) Teacher, Dorchester, Mass.
Collier, Edmund J. (Joseph) Wool Merchant Brookline, Mass.
Cook, Sarah W. Feldman, Arizona
Cooper, Eunice H. (via Joseph) age 94, Born in Pownal, Me.
Tacoma, Wash.
Corbin, Wallace R., (via Samuel) shipper..... Hanover, Mass.
Corthell, Mary J. (via Joseph) Norwell, Mass.

Cortright, Mrs. Alice M. (via Joseph) Mr. C. Flour Merchant and
 Supt. City Elec. Lt. & Power Plant,Homer, Mich.
 Cotting, Ruth Stetson Thompson (Joseph)Boston, Mass.
 Cotting, Chas. E. (Joseph) Banker of firm of Lee Higginson & Co.
 Boston, Mass.
 Crane, Mrs. Geo. E. (via Samuel)Chicago, Ill.
 *Cushman, Miss Alice (via Thomas)Brockton, Mass.
 Cushman, Edwin Burke (via Thomas) Bank Cashier,,
 San Francisco, Cal.
 Cushman, Miss Helen (via Thomas) BookkeeperBrockton, Mass.
 Cushing, Mrs. Helen M. (Benj. and Joseph).....S. Hingham, Mass.
 Damon, Walter E. (via Capt. Benjamin) Caterer Marshfield, Mass.
 *Damon, Bernard (Sgt. Samuel) Town Clerk 38 years Hanover, Mass.
 *Damon, Daniel E. (via Eunice) many years Register of Probate,
 Plymouth County,Plymouth, Mass.
 Davis, Louise Stetson (Sgt. Samuel)Falmouth, Mass.
 Deane, Kenneth (Joseph) Cotton MerchantStamford, Conn.
 Deane, Mrs. Mabel Stetson, Ph. B. (via Robert)Rochester, N. Y.
 Dodge, Mary Lucy Stetson (via Thomas)New Dorchester, Mass.
 Donnell, Reuben C. (via Ensign John and Thomas) Farmer,
 Hanover, Mass.
 Drew, Emily T. (Eunice)Kingston, Mass.
 Dunbar, Mrs. Blanche Stetson,Oneida, N. Y.
 Dunham, Mrs. Rosabel T. (via Robert)West Bridgewater, Mass.
 *Dwelle, Jedediah (Capt. Benj.) State Senator, County Commissioner
 for 27 years, Hanover, Mass.
 Dyer, Mrs. Ellen (Benj. Eunice, Joseph in two lines) Norwell, Mass.
 Dyer, Theodore M., Tacker, (same as above)Norwell, Mass.
 Dyer, Arthur H. (Same as above)Norwell, Mass.
 Edmands, John Stetson, Genealogist (via Joseph) ..Somerville, Mass.
 Edson, Evelyn Hall (via Robert)Brockton, Mass.
 *Ellis, Walter Bailey (via Thomas)Scituate, Mass.
 Ellis, Miss Madeleine (via Thomas)Scituate, Mass.
 Ellis, Miss Katherine (via Thomas)Scituate, Mass.
 Estes, Ralph C. (Joseph) AttorneyAttleboro, Mass.
 Estes, Ralph H. (Joseph) StudentAttleboro, Mass.
 Evarts, Margaret A. Stetson, (wife of Maxwell Evarts, Gen. Counsel
 for Union Pacific R. R. and son of Hon. Wm. M. Evarts, formerly
 Sec. of State, Attorney General, U. S. Senator, etc.) (via Capt.
 Benj.)Windsor, Vt.
 Fiske, Caroline Elliot (Joseph)Stamford, Conn.
 Fitzhugh, Mrs. P. K. (Thomas)Hoskensack, N. J.
 Fleming, Mrs. Eulalie (Robert and Sgt. Samuel)Tampa, Fla.
 Fogg, Horace T. (via Capt. Benj.) Treasurer of Plymouth County,
 Norwell, Mass.
 Ford, Florence G. (via Robert)Duxbury, Mass.
 Ford, Harriet J. Drawing teacher, (via Robert)Duxbury, Mass.

- Ford, Lewis H. (via Joseph) Lawyer, Clayton, N. Y.
- *French, Dea. Joseph (Ensign John and Thomas) Retired Mfr.
Rockland, Mass.
- Gardener, Jared (via Robert) Photographer Plymouth, Mass.
- Gardener, Mrs. Caroline M. (via Robert) Kingston, Mass.
- Garvin, Mrs. May D. (via Capt. Benj.) wife of Samuel D. D.,
Colorado Springs, Col.
- *Gorham, Robert Stetson (via Joseph) Lawyer Boston, Mass.
- Gorham, Mrs. Sarah C. (via Thomas) San Francisco, Cal.
- *Gotwals, Mrs. Sarah P. (via Robert) Philadelphia, Pa.
- Gray, Joshua Stetson (via Capt. Benj.) Town Treasurer,
Rockland, Mass.
- Gray, Mrs. Joshua Stetson (via Robert) Rockland, Mass.
- *Gray, Miss Helen Louise (via Robert and Capt. Benj.) Teacher,
Brooklyn, N. Y.
- Green, Lydia B. (Ensign John) Norwell, Mass.
- *Green, Albert S. (via Ensign John) Master Shipwright,
Charlestown Navy Yard, Mass.
- Gregory, Martin A. (via Joseph 2 lines) Mfr. Educational specialties,
Valparaiso, Ill.
- Griffing, Edward Stetson (via Thomas) Mayor of New Rochelle, N. Y.
- Haggett, Miss Carena L. (via Joseph) Librarian Natick, Mass.
- Haggett, Mrs. Caroline M. (via Joseph) Natick, Mass.
- Halcomb, Rev. Willis B. (via Thomas) Former Rector Christ's Church
Plymouth, Mass. Manorville, Long Island, N. Y.
- Hall, Mrs. Nathalie A. (via Sgt. Samuel and Robert) Chipley, Florida
- Hall, James Winslow, (via Joseph) Retired Ship builder,
Winslow, Wash.
- Harrison, Mrs. Mary Stetson, (via Sgt. Samuel) wife of Col Harrison
of Brandesburton Hall Hull, England
- Haskins, Frederic Chandler (via Joseph, Ensign John and Thomas)
Stock Broker Norwell, Mass.
- Haskins, Grace F. (via Joseph, Ensign John and Thomas) Teacher,
Waverly, Mass.
- *Hatch, Israel H. (via Eunice and Capt. Benj.) Selectman,
Marshfield, Mass.
- Hatch, Cushing, (via Joseph) Norwell, Mass.
- Hatch, Samuel F., Farmer (via Capt. Benj.) Marshfield, Mass.
- Hawley, Harry (via Joseph and Thomas) Major of Infantry U. S. A.
Mexico, Mo.
- Henderson, Lucy Brown, Newcastle, Penn.
- Hersey, Mrs. Clara Stetson (via Joseph twice, Capt. Benj. once)
Author, Hingham, Mass.
- *Hewitt, Thos. Wm. (via Joseph) Planter, Sportsman, Charles City, Va.
- Holland, Mrs. Kate G. Stetson (via Capt. Benj.) Barre, Mass.
- Holmes, Miss Priscilla C. (via Joseph) Boston, Mass.
- Hosmer, John Glover (via Sgt. Samuel) Business agent for Amer.
Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions Boston, Mass.

House, Harrison L. (via Thomas 2 lines) Civil Engineer,
Hanover, Mass.

Howard, Mrs. Clara Stetson (via Joseph) Brattleboro, Vt.

Howland, Mrs. Amelia C. (via Sgt. Samuel) Hanover, Mass.

Hughes, Mrs. Ella Stetson (via Joseph) Ravena, Neb.

Humphrey, Mrs. Annie Ingalls Stetson (via Capt. Benjamin)
Lexington, Mass

Humphrey, Stetson (Capt. Benj.) Director of Boston Music School
Settlement Boston, Mass

*Huston, Mrs. Martha Stetson (via Joseph two lines, Benj. one),
Newcastle, Maine

Jacobs, Henry Barton, M. D. (Capt. Benj.) Baltimore, Md.

Jaques, Bertha E. (Joseph) Artist, President of Chicago Society of
Etchers, Chicago, Ill.

Jarves, Dewing, (via Robert) age 83 years, Lieutenant in civil war.
Recently made "Chevalier of the Legion of Honor" by the French
Gov't. for war work in Brittany. Val d'Fleuri Dinard, France

Johnson, Mrs. Katherine Higginson (via Robert) Atlantic Ave.
Cohasset, Mass.

Jones, Marian Stetson (via Joseph) Wm. Jones, Merchant and Expert
Accountant Brattleboro, Vt.

Kees, Mrs. Susan Stetson (via Joseph) Walla Walla, Wash.

Kellogg, Fred B. (via Joseph) Office Mgr. Sioux City Stock Yards Co.
Sioux City, Iowa

Kelly, Miss Helen Stetson (via Robert) Raynham, Mass.

Kelly, Miss Lucy Forrester (via Robert) Raynham, Mass.

Kelly, Miss Sarah Wilson (via Robert) Raynham, Mass.

Kelly, Miss Julia Braman (via Robert) Raynham, Mass.

Kephart, Mrs. Laura Stetson (via Joseph) Pastor's wife,
Pacific Grove, Calif.

Kinkaid, Mrs. Philena Stetson (via Joseph) Daughter of Capt. M. V.
B. Stetson, City Clerk, Gloversville, N. Y.

Knapp, Mrs. Hannah A. (via Capt. Benj.) Norwell, Mass.

Leach, Anna A. M. (via Robert) Principal Emma Willard School,
Troy, N. Y.

Leach, Edith (A. B. Smith College) (via Robert) Vassar College,
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

*Leach, Abby A. M. (via Robert) Prof. Greek, Vassar College
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

Lee, Frank A. (Joseph) formerly President "John Church Co." of N.
Y., Chicago and Cin. Also Pres. of Everett Piano Co. of Boston
Cincinnati, Ohio

*LePorte, Eliza R. (via Thomas) Hackensack, N. J.

Lermond, Mrs. Cordelia Wight (via Thomas) . . Santa Barbara, Calif.

Liffler, Rebecca C. B. (via Robert) Cambridge, Mass.

Lippincott, Walter (Thomas) Publisher Phila., Pa.

Liscott, Elizabeth Stetson (via Joseph) Melrose, Mass.

Liscott, Mrs. Marie Stetson (via Joseph) Melrose, Mass.

Littlefield, Emma F. Stetson (via Joseph) Avon, Mass.

Macfarlane, Mrs. Blanche Stetson (via Joseph)Seattle, Wash.
Mackaye, James (via Joseph) Chemical Engineer Cambridge, Mass.
Mackaye, Percy, (via Joseph) Dramatist and Poet Cornish, N. H.
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Mask, Mrs. Mary Lowell, (via Thomas)Mobile, Ala.
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Miller, Dora W. (via Thomas)Williamsport, Pa.
*Morrow, Mrs. Geo. C. (via Robert)Brockton, Mass.
*Morton, Hon. Levi P. (via Thomas) Ex. V. Pres. U. S.,
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Neale, Alice Kent (via Sgt. Samuel)N. Y., New York
Neale, Lawrence I. (via Sgt. Samuel) Building Constructor, N. Y., N. Y.
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Norton, Mrs. Chas. Oliver (via Joseph) Capitalist, State Regent
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Parker, Rowen C. (via Thomas) M. I. T.Winchester, Mass.
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Patterson, Vera Stetson (Joseph)Hartington, Neb.
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Peckham, Herman K. (via Robert) RanchmanBrady, Neb.
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Perry, Alonzo W. (via Eunice and Ensign John) President Plant
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Pierce, Laura G., (via Joseph)Braintree, Mass.
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Reed, Nahum Stetson, (via Robert) Dept. Supt.Brockton, Mass.

*Reed, Quincy, (via Robert) Retired Mfr.Whitman, Mass.

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Richardson, Edwin P. (via Joseph)Manchester, N. H.

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Sexton, Mrs. Amy O. Stetson (Joseph)Wenatchee, Wash.

Sexton, Paul Kenneth Stetson (Joseph) Newspaper work
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*Sturtevant, Charles A. (via Joseph, Benj., Eunice and Robert)
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Stetson, Albert Day, Sec. Chamber of Commerce, . . . Phoenix, Arizona
Stetson, Albert L., President Stetson Barret Co. (Sgt. Samuel)
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*Stetson, Alfred D., Ship and House Furnishers, (via Capt. Benj.)
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Stetson, Alice Ross, Tideoute, Penn.
Stetson, Almon B. (B. S.) Supt. Elec. Lamp Mfg. & Genl. Elec. Co.
(via Joseph) Fort Wayne, Ind.
Stetson, Alton J. (Sgt. Samuel) Jeweler Syracuse, N. Y.
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*Stetson, Anna M., (via Joseph) Daughter of Judge Chas. Stetson (M.
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Stetson, Arthur Douglass (Joseph 2 lines, Benj. one) Sergeant over-
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Stetson, Arthur F., Pres. Union Marine Ins. Co. (via Thomas)
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Stetson, Arthur H. (Capt. Benj.) Formerly County Attorney and City
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Stetson, Arthur W. (Thomas) Secretary of Garden State and Miners
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Stetson, Carlton Beecher (Joseph) Advertising Mgr., Torrington, Ct.

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Stetson, Charles Cary (Thomas) Pres. Fidelity Storage and Transfer
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Stetson, Charles Wyllys (Thomas) V. Pres. Lawyer's Title & Guar.
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Stetson, Clarence Juan, in World War, Pictorial Sign Painter,
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Stetson, Daniel R. (Joseph) Postmaster Newport, Vt.

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 13 years,Norwell, Mass.

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Stetson, Frank Cheney (Benj. once and Joseph twice) Sales
 ManagerWest Medford, Mass.

Stetson, Frank D. (Capt. Benj. and Joseph) Real Estate
 Whitman, Mass.

Stetson, Frank E. (Joseph twice; Benj. once) Shoe cutter
 Brockton, Mass.

Stetson, Frank H. (Thomas) MachinistLawrence, Mass.

*Stetson, Frank L. (Capt. Benj.) BookkeeperMedford, Mass.

Stetson, Frank Melville (Capt. Benj.) Merchant ...Brunswick, Maine

Stetson, Frank Winthrop (Joseph) Civil EngineerHemet, Cal.

Stetson, Fred Clifton (Sgt. Samuel) RetiredMalden, Mass.

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 N. Y., N. Y.

Stetson, Frederick T. (Joseph) LawyerChamplain, N. Y.

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Stetson, Geo. A. (Samuel) Wholesale CoalWinchester, Mass.

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Stetson, Geo. H. (Thomas) Ins. Broker, 32nd degree Mason of
 Scottish RiteN. Y., N. Y.

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Stetson, Geo. R. (via Robert) Treasurer First Nat'l Bank,
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*Stetson, Geo. R. (via Joseph) President Gas and Electric Light Co.,
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Stetson, Geo. Warren (Sgt. Samuel) Power Plant Equipment
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*Stetson, Geo. William (Capt. Benj.) Retired Farmer ... Barry, Mass.

Stetson, G. Henry 2nd, son of late John B. Stetson, Capitalist
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Stetson, Graydon (Sgt. Samuel) President Salem Trust Co., Trustee
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Stetson, Guy Thomas (Sgt. Samuel) Orchardist Ujai, Cal.

Stetson, Harlan True (Joseph) Prof. Astronomy Harvard Univ.
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- Stetson, Julia C. (Joseph)Abington, Mass.
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